WEDNESDAY
December 18, 2024

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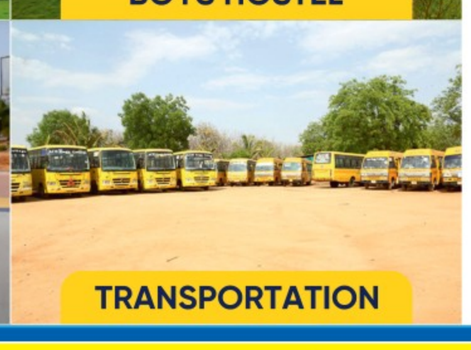
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Ex-ISRO chief advises restructuring of NTA

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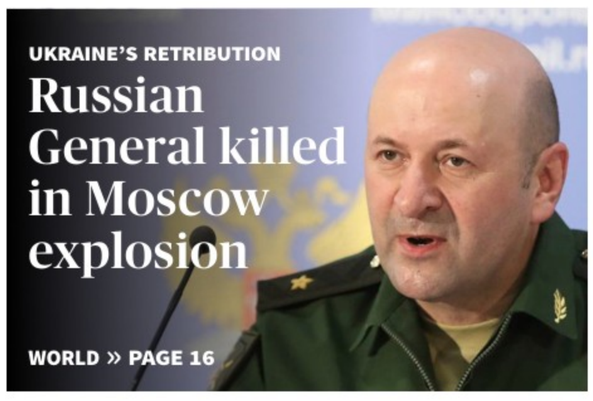

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China is world's largest debt collector

Plays major role in rise in debt in many nations

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Akash, Bumrah help India avoid follow-on

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NEARBY

BBMP fails to collect ₹145 crore worth of fines

BENGALURU
As many as 1,175 unauthorised road-digging cases were reported between 2015 and 2021, involving government agencies too. The BBMP has failed to collect fines and fees totalling ₹145 crore for these violations. » Page 2

'Growth of State economy likely to be steady'

BELAGAVI
The growth trajectory of the State's economy is likely to continue at a steady pace with a positive outlook in the agricultural sector, according to the Mid-Year Review of State Finances. » Page 6

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Two Bills on simultaneous elections rock Parliament

Opposition terms legislation an assault on basic structure of Constitution; Law Minister says no change to powers enjoyed by the States, agrees to send Bills to Joint Parliamentary Committee

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Two Bills seeking to implement simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal after an intense debate during which Opposition members asserted that the legislation were "anti-federal" and went against the basic structure of the Constitution.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill was introduced in the House by Mr. Meghwal after a 90-minute debate, followed by a division of votes as Opposition members insisted on it. While 263 members voted in favour of introducing the Bill, 198 opposed it.

Arjun Ram Meghwal introduces the two Bills in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament. ANI

The Law Minister also introduced the Union Territories Amendment Bill, which seeks to align elections in the Union Territories of Puducherry, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir with the Lok Sabha election.

Responding to the debate, Mr. Meghwal said the legislation did not tamper with the powers enjoyed by the States. He said that principles such as judicial review, federal character of the Constitution, separation of powers, secular character, supremacy of the Constitution did not change with these Bills.

"There will be no tampering with the basic structure of the Constitution," Mr. Meghwal said, before agreeing to move a resolution to send the Bills to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Leading the Opposition's charge was Congress member Manish Tewari, who called the move an "assault on the basic structure of the Constitution and beyond the legislative competence of this House". "How is it possible under our constitutional scheme that the tenures of State legislatures can be made subject to the tenure of the national legislature... Under the constitutional scheme, the States are separate and equal constituents," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Forest Dept. officials raid Cauvery emporium

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Forest Department officials on Tuesday revoked the sandalwood storage permit of the State-owned Cauvery Handicrafts Emporium on M.G. Road, managed by Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., following a raid on the premises and booked two people related to the case.

Department officials said they raided the emporium after receiving information that over 4 kg of sandalwood had been transported to the Cauvery Handicrafts Emporium without the department's permission.

"Normally, a permit is required for transporting sandalwood in quantities exceeding 4 kg," a source from the department said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Manipur SITs filed chargesheet in just 6% of 3,023 cases

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Nineteen months after ethnic violence erupted in Manipur, the 42 special investigation teams (SIT) constituted by the Supreme Court have filed chargesheets in only 6% of the 3,023 registered cases.

According to a report accessed by *The Hindu*, chargesheets pertaining to rape, sexual offences against women, arson, loot, murder, and other heinous acts have been filed only in 192 cases.

The SITs, constituted in August 2023 by drawing police officers from across the country, had till November 20 arrested 384 persons, identified 742 suspects, and examined 11,901 witnesses. As many as 574 accused persons have been chargesheeted so far.

The SITs also seized 501 weapons looted from police armouries in the State and 13,464 ammunition.

The 42 SITs were investigating 126 cases of murder and nine of sexual crimes against women.

It was not clear if trial had begun in the cases.

The trial is yet to begin in the case of sexual assault of two Kuki-Zo women, who were paraded naked by a mob on May 4, 2023, though the Central Bureau of Investigation filed a chargesheet against six accused in October 2023.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

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Mumbai's SMAT triumph — the coming together of youth, exuberance and experience

This trophy is important. All the youngsters showcased their talent — it is simply phenomenal. You can see their character both in the dressing room and on the field. They are fearless in their approach and this is the kind of players we need to back, says skipper Shreyas

K. MURALI KUMAR

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The Mumbai team for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) was packed with match-winners, with no less than six India internationals in the XI. All that was needed was good guidance and mature leadership – traits that skipper Shreyas Iyer displayed in plenty.

Shreyas was calm on the field, and with bat in hand, was a reliable presence in the middle-order. He was happy to allow his more flamboyant teammates like Ajinkya Rahane and Suryakumar Yadav take centre stage, but when the situation demanded it, Shreyas did not hesitate to clear the boundary ropes.

All pieces of the puzzle fell in place during the course of the tournament, leading Mumbai to claim its second SMAT title.

Lauds bowlers

While the batting line-up was filled with experienced stars, the Mumbai bowling unit - barring pacer Shardul Thakur - was fairly fresh. The success of the bowling attack pleased Shreyas no end.

"It helps the captain when you have such experienced players in your team. But if you see our bowling line-up, there are hardly any India players. The bowlers struggled a bit right from the opening match, but the way they showed their skills in the last two games was superb. They stepped up at the right time when the team needed them. They did very well to concede only around 170 in the final. This was a great effort, because we know that the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch tends to get more batting-friendly as the match goes on. When the lights come on, it is easy for the batters," Shreyas said.

In both the semifinal and final, Shreyas won the toss and elected to field first. He was well served by the likes of spinners Tanush Kotian and Atharva Ankolekar and all-rounder Suryansh Shedge, who managed to restrict the opposition to sub-par scores.

A strong Baroda, with Hardik Pandya and Krunal Pandya in its ranks, could manage only 158 for seven in the semifinal. Mumbai made short work of the target, riding on a magnificent 98 from Rahane.

The bowlers performed well under pressure once again in the final, restricting Madhya Pradesh to a manageable 174 for eight. It only took 17.5 overs for Mumbai to coast home.

"Everyone contributed towards this success. Every player made it count at the right time, which was important. Hopefully, we can keep building this momentum in the Vijay Hazare Trophy and Ranji Trophy," Shreyas said.

There is no better feeling than that winning feeling, Shreyas added. "This trophy is important. All the youngsters showcased their talent – it is simply phenomenal. You can see their character both in the dressing room and on the field. They are fearless in their approach, and this is the kind of players we need to back. For me personally, I just want to win each and every game," Shreyas said.

Among Mumbai's standout performers was opener Rahane. The 36-year-old finished as the highest run-scorer of the tournament, and won the Player-of-the-Series award. Rahane was destructive in the PowerPlay, showcasing a new found penchant for attacking stroke-play.

Ultimate team man

Shreyas termed Rahane as the ultimate team man who will go that extra mile to contribute to the bigger cause.

"Rahane is the sort of a character who will give 110% for the team. He will step up at the right time on any given occasion. He actually started the tournament batting at number four. We had two openers (Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Prithvi Shaw), so he sacrificed his position. After Suryakumar Yadav came into the tournament, Rahane became the opener. He is a fantastic team man, and hopefully he carries forward the same momentum in the upcoming games as well. Salute to him – the way he approached each and every game," Shreyas said.

The emergence of Shedge, meanwhile, augurs well for the future of Mumbai cricket. All of 21, Shedge displayed maturity well beyond his age to don the role of finisher with aplomb. His talent and temperament was underlined in the final, when he blasted an unbeaten 15-ball 36 to claim the Player-of-the-Match award. Shedge is also a handy medium-pacer with the knack of grabbing crucial middle-over wickets.

Shreyas was full of praise for the young Shedge. "He is a phenomenal athlete. You see him running around, bowling crucial overs, and taking the field on long-on. He's that kind of a player who is always there for the team, no matter what the situation. He goes full throttle, and he is hell bent towards achieving success. That is what fascinates me about him. The quick twos he took while batting – not everyone can do that.

"Everyone comes in and hits sixes and fours, but running quicks twos means you are putting 110 percent effort for the team," Shreyas said.

Shreyas and Shedge will reunite in IPL 2025, with both players signed by Punjab Kings. Shreyas stated that while it is too early to assign a role for Shedge at Punjab Kings, the all-rounder has all the right qualities to succeed.

"I really love his work ethic. He is someone who puts in the hard yards. Even after the game, he goes to train, and this reflects in his athletic ability. I feel all these small things matter a lot when you are selecting a player in your team. He has stepped up at the right time, and he has shown that he is worth playing at that level," Shreyas said.

Staying in the now

On a personal note, Shreyas is keen to stay in the present and relish this successful SMAT campaign.

"I believe in staying in the present. Right now I just want to go and enjoy this trophy win with my teammates, friends and family. I am not thinking about what to plan ahead. I would like to get some applause from my friends about this success. I will cherish it. And after that we will see what comes next," Shreyas said.

The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium wore a festive look during the summit clash, with a massive number of spectators packing the venue. The sheer numbers took Shreyas by surprise.

"Whenever we play at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the crowds are electrifying. The way they came in huge numbers today – it was out of the world. I was not expecting it. I saw one stand fully packed at the start of the match.

"But later on, once the match picked up pace, the numbers increased and it went bonkers. We know how much the people of Bengaluru love their RCB players, but I'm happy that they supported us as well," Shreyas said.

THE GIST

- Shreyas was calm on the field, and with bat in hand, was a reliable presence in the middle-order
- Rahane is the sort of a character who will give 110% for the team and will step up at the right time on any given occasion, felt the Mumbai captain
- Shreyas was all praise for the young Shedge, calling him "a phenomenal athlete" and "the kind of player who is always there for the team"

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AIR 5 — E&T — PARAG SAROHA

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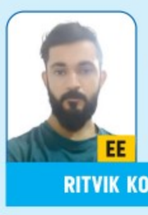

AIR 6 — EE — RITVIK KOK

AIR 6 — ME — CHANDAN JOSHI

AIR 7 — E&T — DEBARGHYA CH

AIR 7 — EE — MANTHAN SHARMA

AIR 7 — ME — DINESH KUMAR S

AIR 8 — E&T — VIDHU SHREE

AIR 8 — EE — MAYANK JAIMAN

AIR 8 — ME — SHAILENDRA SINGH

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AIR 9 — ME — KRISHNA KUMAR D

AIR 10 — CE — RAJESH BADUGU

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IDeCK conducting survey to decide on location for second airport in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government is yet to finalise the location for the second international airport in Bengaluru, Industries Minister M.B. Patil said in Belagavi on Tuesday.

"We have asked the Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Ltd. (IDeCK) to conduct a survey to finalise the place. It will consider various factors including connectivity by roads, rail and metro, whether the surroundings have a hilly terrain or tall structures," he said, responding a question by member T.N. Javarayi Gowda in the Legislative Council.

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil speaking in the Legislative Council on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Influencing factors

A list of potential locations will be prepared after a study. Factors like distance and time to reach the proposed airport for users, flat land, soil types, low population density areas and availability of water resources will also be taken into account. Other works like project reports and the proposal related to the project are being taken up.

Mr. Patil said that compensation for land acquired by KIADB is being deposited directly to the concerned account holders through RTGS. This is to avoid the menace of middlemen, he said. He was responding to a question by member Bharati Shetty.

He clarified that as per provisions of the KIAD Act, 1996, farmers cannot be made shareholders of factories set up on acquired land. However, the KIADB gives back developed land of 10,781 sq.ft for every acre of land acquired, to land owners, on the lines of urban development authorities, the Minister said.

BBMP fails to collect ₹145 crore worth of fines for unauthorised road digging

Road cuts are needed for various service providers, including underground cable installations, electricity lines, water pipelines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 1,175 unauthorised road-digging incidents were reported between 2015 and 2021, involving government agencies too. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has failed to collect fines and fees totalling ₹145 crore for these violations.

This revelation emerged in the 40th report presented in both the houses by the Joint Legislative Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayat Raj Institutions on Tuesday. The committee criticised BBMP for its delayed approval process, saying it indirectly encouraging unauthorised road digging. The committee has mentioned this in its report from the observations made by the CAG.

Road cuts are necessary for various service providers, including underground cable installations, electricity lines, and water pipelines. However, BBMP mandates prior permission for such work and has also established a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). According to the SOP, any government or private agency violating the rules is liable to pay a fine of ₹25 lakh per case. However, despite these regulations, 1,175 unauthorised projects were carried out. Among these, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) accounted for 95 and 97 projects, respectively. The combined penalties and fees from these violations amount to ₹145 crore.

Private companies went ahead with 983 projects, digging 7,56,367 metres of road for various purposes, even after permissions were denied. FILE PHOTO

Additionally, private companies went ahead with 983 projects, digging 7,56,367 metres of road for various purposes, even after permissions were denied. BBMP failed to collect ₹119.45 crore in approval fees for these works.

Storm-water drains

The committee has also recommended action against 18 engineers for dereliction of duty during issuing tenders between 2006 and 2012 in connection to storm-water drains. This was also observed in the CAG report.

Civic body resumes search for land to build 250-m high skydeck

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has again started looking for land for the 250-metre tall skydeck project as the State government is uninterested in giving the green signal to the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) land at Hemmigepura.

In July this year, the BBMP had finalised a 25-acre plot owned by the NICE. In November first week, BBMP had invited objections from citizens for this location. According to sources in the BBMP, most citizens have opposed the project calling it unnecessary and asked the palike to spend money on improving the infrastructure instead. However, the BBMP is keen on this project, but land has become a major issue.

The source in the BBMP said after dropping two land options in the city area, the BBMP had finalised Hemmigepura land. But now, the government has asked it to find another suitable land on the outskirts of the city. The reason for the change was the possible establishment of a second airport in the southern part of Bengaluru. Among other areas, Dy.CM and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar is also considering setting up a second airport at Bidadi or Kanakapura and the skydeck will come in the way of the airport.

Tushar Giri Nath

The source further pointed out that 10 acres of New Government Electric Factory (NGEF) land near Baiyappanahalli metro station that was identified first was cancelled after learning that the civic body would not get permission from Airport Authority of India (AAI) and defence authorities.

On the other hand, there were issues with the particular land parcel. The civic body had suggested that the Government of Karnataka acquire the land in a barter system with NICE, by giving NICE another piece of government land in exchange for this particular piece. However, NICE has not shown interest in this proposal.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, talking to *The Hindu* said, "We are now searching for more suitable land on the outskirts of the city." When asked about the new locations the BBMP is looking at, he did not reveal any details.

Rain fury: Electrical infrastructure damage worth ₹156 crore registered across Karnataka

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

As Karnataka experienced good rainfall this year, the electricity infrastructure took a hit across the State with losses amounting to a whopping ₹156 crore. Around 74,594 electric poles, 5,109 transformers and 1693.19 kilometres of electric lines were damaged by rainfall between April and November.

While the highest number of electric poles (26,165 worth ₹32,5 crore) fell in areas under Mangalore Electricity Supply Company (Mescom) jurisdiction, the highest number of transformers (2252 worth ₹39.8 crore) were damaged in areas falling under Hubli Electricity Supply Company (Hescom) jurisdiction. The electric lines in these two regions also suffered the most damage at 735.24 kilometres and 738.56 kilometres respectively, states data presented by Energy Minister K.J. George in the Legislative Assembly.

"The electric infrastructure was damaged owing to heavy rains, winds, flooding and other natural calamities," Mr. George said. This large-scale damage, however, comes despite a circular that was sent out in May to power utlities by the Energy Department asking them to implement pre-monsoon contingency plans. Time and again citizens have pointed out that the infrastructure maintenance by escoms is often subpar leading to damage year after year.

Damage incurred between April and November

Escom	Damage incurred (in ₹ crore)	Expenditure on repair (in ₹ crore)
Bescom	26.53	26.46
CESC	19.67	19.07
Hescom	60.39	45.77
Mescom	40.08	40.08
Gescom	9.43	9.25

"It is a shame that in a State which is a pioneer of the electrical sector, we see lacunae in maintenance of electrical infrastructure to this day. Even in a city like Bengaluru where aerial bunching of cables is taking place and underground cables are being laid, lines still get damaged. The pre-monsoon planning is mostly limited to pruning of trees and even that is not conducted scientifically," said a citizen activist well-versed in the power sector.

The escoms have spent over ₹140.65 crore so far on repairing and replacing the damaged infrastructure. "The work on rebuilding the damaged infrastructure and restoring power supply has been taken up on priority," the Minister said.

Mr. George also said that escoms and other power distribution companies are taking several steps including preventive, pre-monsoon and predictive maintenance to avoid electrical infrastructure damage in the future. The companies have also been directed to keep stock of electrical poles, conductors and other items in their warehouses to restore power in a short span of time to the affected areas.

Newborn boy spends hours in the open

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A heart-wrenching incident unfolded at the District Hospital attached to the Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Kalaburagi on Tuesday where a newborn had to spend hours with its grandmother in an open area after its mother died and the hospital staff asked the relatives to take the baby away.

The baby was later admitted only after mediapersons questioned the insensitiveness of the hospital staff. Bhagyashree Shivaji, who was delivered of the baby boy in the morning at a government health facility in Afzalpur, was brought to the District Hospital in Kalaburagi by 11 a.m. after she developed complications owing to excessive bleeding.

When she died, the newborn was then handed over to the grandmother. "The hospital staff asked us to take the baby home saying it is healthy. They said that the baby didn't require medical attention. They provided no medical assistance or guidance for caring for the newborn," the grandmother told media.

By e-Despatch / By e-Mail : E-mail : serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com
ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର
ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର
Office order No. 3584 // Dated. 13.12.2024
1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Building Tender Online RWCSBP-10/2024-25
Following modifications are hereby made to the notice inviting tender vide this office Bid ID No. Building Tender Online RWCSBP-10/2024-25.
1. The availability of tender online for bidding may be read as 18.12.2024 from 11.00 AM to 01.01.2025 up to 5.00 PM instead of from 04.12.2024 from 11.00 AM to 18.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM.
2. The last date & time for seeking clarification may be read as 31.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM instead of 17.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM.
3. The date & time of technical opening bid may be read as 02.01.2025 at 11.00 AM instead of 19.12.2024 at 11.00 AM.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Sambalpur.
O-895: OIPR-25091/11/0018/2425

BUSINESS CONNECT
A Business Initiative

"Crafted to Perfection: The Ruby & Emerald Collection by GRT Jewellers."

Founded in 1964, GRT Jewellers has built a legacy of trust, purity, and exceptional craftsmanship. Over the years, it has become a beloved name across South India and Singapore, known for its stunning Gold, Diamond, Platinum, Silver and Gemstones collections. Carrying this legacy forward, GRT Jewellers has introduced the Ruby & Emerald Mela, a celebration of vibrant gemstones and stunning artistry. This exquisite, new collection brings with it a range of exclusive offers. The offers applicable only for Andhra Pradesh / Telangana and Karnataka showrooms. Mr. G.R. 'Anand' Ananthapadmanabhan, MD of GRT Jewellers said they take pride in their new ruby and emerald Jewellery and Mr. G.R. Radhakrishnan, MD of GRT Jewellers, added that every ruby and emerald in the collection are carefully chosen by experts to ensure quality and perfection. They have also curated their own design style to reflect the specific preferences of their customers, it's a treat to see their Jewellery add a magnificent spark on them.

Regal Jewellers: A Legacy of Elegance, Now in Namma Bengaluru at Kammanahalli

Regal Jewellers, a renowned name in the world of fine jewellery, is thrilled that the grand opening of its first wholesale and manufacturing store in namma Bengaluru Kammanahalli happened recently and was inaugurated by the sandal wood cinderella Ms Radhika Pandit. Founded in 1978 by Sivadas Thamarassery, Regal Jewellers has been synonymous with quality, craftsmanship, and innovation. The store offers a wide range of jewellery, from classic to contemporary, catering to diverse tastes and occasions. "We are excited to introduce Regal Jewellers, the first wholesale jewellery store to the people of Namma Bengaluru," said Mr Vibin Shivdas, MD & CEO, Regal Jewellers. "Our aim is to provide a premium shopping experience and offer our customers the finest quality jewellery at competitive prices." he added. They are planning to expand its presence in Bengaluru with additional stores in prime locations like Malleswaram, ensuring that its legacy of elegance reaches a wider audience. Regal Jewellers is a leading wholesale and manufacturing jeweller based in Kerala. With a rich heritage of over 45 years, the brand is renowned for its exquisite designs, high-quality craftsmanship, and commitment to customer satisfaction.

Retail Employees Day-2024 celebrated by The Bangalore Trades Association

The 125 years old, the Bangalore Trades Association celebrated Retail Employees Day-2024 and Felicitated about 60 employees from Member Establishments for their Outstanding Performance and Dedication. Immediate Past President Vijayashekar Ravi, chief Guest Chetan Siyal, President Sreesh R. Babu, Secretary Rajesh Bantia and Treasurer Deepak Welling were part of the celebration.

Dindigul Thalappakatti Launches "Bucket of Celebration" Campaign with the Legendary Express for Christmas and New Year

Dindigul Thalappakatti established in 1957, the iconic name in authentic biriyani, is all set to spread the festive cheer with its grand new campaign, "Bucket of Celebration". As part of this exciting initiative, customers can enjoy a special offer - with every bucket biriyani purchased, they will receive complimentary starters, beverages, and desserts. The highlight of the campaign is the launch of the Legendary Express, a specially designed tableau featuring a life-sized biriyani bucket. This unique vehicle will embark on an extraordinary journey of 1500+ kilometers across states, starting in Bangalore and concluding in Chennai, making pit stops at major cities to engage with food lovers and celebrate the festive season. The event kicks off with the flagging off of the Legendary Express in Bangalore, marking the beginning of this one-of-a-kind roadshow. Adding to the excitement, Dindigul Thalappakatti invites everyone to participate in a thrilling contest: Spot, Click, and Win! Winners will get a chance to enjoy free biriyani, making this festive season even more special! The campaign aim to create unforgettable festive memories for the customers and are thrilled to take the spirit of Dindigul Thalappakatti on the road and spread happiness along the way. Join the celebration, spot the Legendary Express, and make this festive season a memorable one with Dindigul Thalappakatti!

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, JASMINE R/a No.21 GF, Kurubarahalli Pipe Line Road, Kaverinagar, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru - 560079 have changed my name to Jasmine Ashraf vide affidavit dt: 13.12.2024 sworn before Notary T.C.Thimmaraja, B'luru

I, MURALI Kannyeram, R/at No.80, 5th Cross, Narasipura Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097, have changed my name from Murali Kannyeram to Murali Kannayaram vide affidavit dated 17/12/2024 before Notary Lakshmaiah, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAYARAMAN Sriram, S/O Jayaraman, residing at Uttarahalli, Bengaluru 560061, have changed my name from Sriram to Jayaraman Sriram

I, HEMALATHA Chelaganahalli Ramanna, W/o V.Chandrashekar, R/at No.89, Kanakapura Main Road, Art of Living, SLV Layout, Udaypura, Bengaluru-560082, have changed my name from Hemalatha Chelaganahalli Ramanna to Latha Chelaganahalli Ramanna vide affidavit dated 13/12/2024 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'luru.

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

HAMDARD STUDY CIRCLE
Talimabad, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi 110080
Phone: 7669168904
Email: hscdelhi@hotmail.com
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Hamdard Study Circle, which has provided coaching for all 3 stages of UPSC exam since 1991 with excellent results, is commencing the coaching for Personality Test 2024. Free Mock interviews will be conducted by Senior Civil Servants, Academicians, Media and Industry personnel, with facility of audio and video recording.
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For more information please visit our website "hamdardstudycircle.in".
Director

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
No.GSD/Scrap/Auction Programme/04/2024-25 Date: 13.12.2024
AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE NO.GSD/BLW/SCRAP/04/2024-25
Following is the schedule of e-auction to be held in the month of January, February & March' 2025 for sale of scrap under the jurisdictions of GSD/BLW, Varanasi. Types of Auction : e- auction from (10:30 Hrs.), Depot : GSD/BLW/Varanasi.
e-auction Date of January - 2025 : 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, -.
e-auction Date of February - 2025 : 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, -.
e-auction Date of March - 2025 : 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, -.
You are requested to actively participate in the above scheduled e-auction. For details please visit IREPS website at www.ireps.gov.in.
Dy. CMM/Depot
PRO/BLW/S-69 Material Management Department, BLW/Varanasi
/blwvaranasi "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

Can Fin Homes Ltd
(Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
HOME LOANS • DEPOSITS
SAHAKARNAGAR BRANCH

Can Fin Homes Ltd
No.553, Therani Towers 1ST Floor,
F- Block 60 Feet Rd, Above IOB Bank,
Sahakarnagar - 562159.
Ph : 080- 23636425, Mob – 7625079141
e-mail: sahakaranagar@canfinhomes.com
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[proviso to rule 9(1)]
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Sahakarnagar Branch, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 06-01-2025 for recovery of Rs.99,80,000/- (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakh Eighty Thousand Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. From Mr. Jayaprakash R (Borrower), Mrs. Sowmya J (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Vishnu Vaishnav Prasanna (Guarantor), as on 17-12-2024, together with further interest and other charges thereon.
The reserve price will be Rs.40,50,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.4,05,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Five Thousand only)
Description of the Immovable Property
Western portion of Immovable Property bearing Site No.68, Khatha No.1158, Allotment No.3, Formed in Converted in Sy. No 10/1, situated at Venkatala Village and Sy No.60/1, 61/1 and 61/2-A, of Kogilu Village, vide Conversion Order B.BIS.ALN.SR/4620, Dated 08-05-1970, formed by the Sri Maruthi Badavara Gruha Nirmana Seva Sangha Vide Regd. No. S-121/68, situated at Maruthinagar, Kogilu Road, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Now comes under Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.01, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all Measuring 1200 Sq. Ft and Bounded on The: East By: Eastern Portion Of The Same Site No. 68, West By: Private Property, North By: Road, South By: Site No.67
Any Encumbrance: Nil
The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx).
Date: 17.12.2024
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

Private aviation is releasing more than its 'fair share' of emissions

Scientists analysed flight data from the ADS-B Exchange platform and focused on five recent global events which were accompanied by international travel. They found some 47% of all these flights were for distances shorter than 500km and around 19% were in fact for distances shorter than 200km. About 5% spanned less than 50km

Monika Mondal

If the aviation sector were a country, it would be among the world's top 10 greenhouse gas-emitting nations. Air travel is one of the most polluting modes of travel for its relatively higher carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions and the effects of vapour trails and gases it deposits in the atmosphere.

But even within air travel, private jets and chartered planes have a higher carbon footprint per passenger. According to a 2021 report of the European Federation for Transport and Environment, private jets are five- to 14-times more polluting per passenger than commercial flights and 50-times more than trains.

A recent study in *Nature* reported emissions increased by 46% between 2019 and 2023, especially thanks to private aviation. The number of aircraft increased from 25,993 in December 2023 to 26,454 in February 2024 and is expected to grow further. According to the paper, "Private aviation contributed at least... about 3.6 tonnes of CO_2 per flight."

As of March 2024, 112 private planes were registered in India. Representative photo. CHRIS LEIPELT

More millionaires in India

As of March 2024, 112 private planes were registered in India. According to the paper, India has very few aircraft per lakh population (0.01) compared to Malta (46.51), the U.S. (5.45), Switzerland (3.76), the U.K. (0.78), Brazil (0.43), France (0.36), and Russia (0.1). China has a comparable 0.02.

"But India is actually among the top 20 countries in terms of private aircraft ownership and the highest among low-middle-income countries," Ramya Natarajan, a research scientist at the Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP), a think-tank in Bengaluru, said. "This isn't surprising because India, while still a developing country, has the third highest number of billionaires in the world and also has a rapidly growing millionaire population."

Despite nascent efforts to decarbonise the aviation industry, solutions like sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs), hydrogen, and electrification haven't been easy to implement at a large scale.

Private flight usage

In the study, researchers from institutes in Sweden, Germany, and Denmark analysed flight data from the ADS-B Exchange platform and focused on five recent global events accompanied by international travel.

These events were the World Economic Forum in Switzerland; the Super Bowl in the U.S.; the COP28 climate talks in the U.A.E.; the Cannes Film Festival in France; and the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. In many cases, the researchers found the same aircraft units were used for these events.

Some 47% of all these flights were for distances shorter than 500km. Around 19% were in fact for distances shorter than 200km; many of them were actually empty or used to deliver goods. About 5% of the flights spanned less than 50km – a distance otherwise easily covered by road or rail.

The study also reported that the use of private aircraft for leisure destinations like Ibiza in Spain and Nice in France peaked in June-August, which is summer in the northern hemisphere, and especially over the weekends.

Around 69% of private aviation was concentrated in the U.S.

The researchers also estimated that another 8,500 jets will be delivered to private parties in the next 10 years, although how many will end up in India is unknown. "How many additional private flights might be added every year as India becomes a wealthier, developed country? Can India afford to take the U.S. route? What would the overall impact of such lifestyle choices be?" Natarajan asked.

Air travel and India's emissions

In the last decade, the Indian government launched the policies 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN) to enhance rural connectivity and 'Nextgen Airports for Bharat Nirman' (NABH) to increase airport capacity by more than five times.

> In India, the alcohol-to-jet pathway seems most likely in the medium term. However, planning is needed to avoid negative land-use change and groundwater implications. Demand for SAF should not incentivise sugarcane or maize

Indian airplane operators have also been testing low-carbon fuels. In 2018, for example, SpiceJet operated a flight from Uttarakhand to New Delhi on aviation fuel blended with oil from seeds of the jatropha plant, to the tune of 25% by volume. In 2023, Air Asia flew a flight from Pune to New Delhi powered by SAF blended with aviation turbine fuel (ATF) based on indigenous feedstock and supplied by the Indian Oil Corporation, Ltd. But these attempts have not translated into the commercialisation of SAF due to its limited availability and efficiency. According to one April 2024 estimate, it also costs "at least 120%" more than conventional jet fuel for reducing emissions by at least 27%.

Apart from SAFs, both experts and lawmakers have discussed hydrogen and electrification as possible alternatives to kerosene, which is used in aviation for its high energy density. Hydrogen packs three-times more energy in the same mass but handling it is a nightmare. Engineers will need to redesign, remodel, and restructure aircraft bodies as well as the fuel storage, transportation, and fuelling facilities at airports to use hydrogen-based fuels in aviation. Likewise, electrification is currently a poor solution due to issues of battery weight, flight stability, and its dependency on other economies for its raw materials, industry experts have said.

"In India, the alcohol-to-jet pathway seems most likely in the medium term, given that we already have a good ethanol production supply chain," Natarajan said. "However, this should be carefully planned to avoid negative land-use change and groundwater implications. A demand for SAF should not incentivise increased cultivation of sugarcane or maize. Instead, only surplus sugar should be used."

However, Natarajan added, the work of her and her peers at CSTEP suggests there is hope. "If by the year 2050, only surplus sugar is converted to ethanol and ethanol is fully used to make aviation fuel, instead of blending with petrol as we do currently, then we can meet almost 15-20% of the aviation fuel demand of 2050," she said.

(Monika Mondal is a freelance science and environment journalist. a.monikamondal@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Private jets are five to 14 times more polluting than commercial flights and 50 times more than trains. *Nature* reports emissions increased by 46% because of private aviation

India is among the top 20 countries in terms of private aircraft ownership. India though a developing country has the third highest number of billionaires and a rapidly growing millionaire population

Hydrogen and electrification are being discussed as alternatives to kerosene. Hydrogen packs three times more energy but handling is a nightmare. Electrification is beset by issues like weight, flight stability, and raw materials

BIG SHOT

Jesus Alvarado of the Pilares Marino Foundation holds a structure with tiny coral pieces to create a coral farm in a project with Venezuela's government to repopulate reefs and diminish the effects of global warming, in Santo Domingo, Venezuela. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Keypad protocol for numbers

Q: Why are the rows on a calculator or number keypad arranged with the lowest numbers at the bottom when we normally read from top to bottom? And why are phone keypads arranged with the lowest numbers at the top?

A: Mechanical adding machines, based on rotating wheels, always have the '0' button adjacent to the '!' button.

By convention, most old adding machines had the numbers increasing in value from the bottom and this may be a hangover from when the machines had levers on the wheels rather than buttons. When the numbers were put onto a pad arranged as a three by three grid with one left over, the order of the numbers, as far as possible, kept the same, according to a report in *New Scientist*.

On a rotary telephone dial the '()' comes adjacent to the '9' because a '()' in the telephone number is signalled by ten pulses on the line.

When telephones acquired push buttons in a grid, the ordering of the buttons was carried over from the old telephone dial.

Representative image of a digital calculator. DOSTON NABOTOV

- The Hindu Bureau

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Many facing delay in getting registration certificates, DLs in smart card format

However, Transport Department officials say the problem, caused by smart card version upgrade, has been resolved

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Many people have faced delays in receiving their driving licences (DL) and registration certificates (RCs) in Smart Card format from the Transport Department. The department has attributed the delays to the upgrade of the Smart Card printing version from 1.0 to 2.0, which has impacted the issuance process across the State.

Mahesh Kulkarni, a resident of Kengeri, said that despite completing his driving test, he had to wait over two months to receive his driving licence (DL). "I finally received the Smart Card DL after two months and 15 days, but no explanation was provided by the authorities for the delay," he said.

Another resident, Basavaraj K. from Seshadripuram, said that although he purchased a brand-new car from the showroom, he had to wait a month to receive his RC book, which is typically delivered within a few days.

"I was constantly following up with the car dealer and the RTO, but the RC book was delayed. Without the RC book, how can I drive the car? If the police catch us, they will fine us," he said.

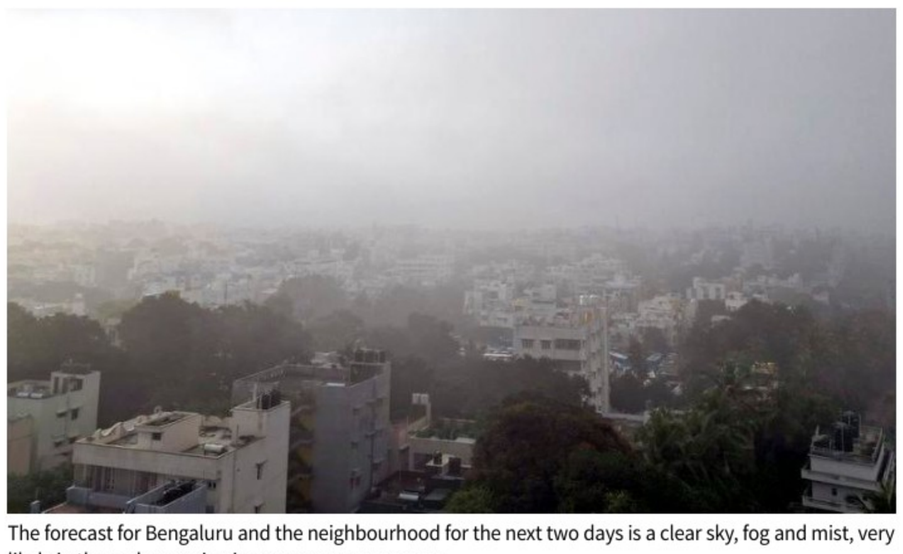
In Karnataka, approximately 5,000 people register vehicles and 4,000 take driving tests every day. FILE PHOTO

Meanwhile, Transport Department officials clarified that the issue had been resolved. They explained that the delay was caused by the Smart Card version upgrade managed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). After the system was upgraded from Version 1.0 to 2.0, the problem was resolved, an official told *The Hindu*. In Karnataka, approximately 5,000 people register vehicles, and 4,000 take driving tests every day. The Transport Department strives to issue Smart Cards within 10 days.

Recently, Vijayapura BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal raised concerns in the ongoing Assembly session regarding delays in issuing DL and RC Smart Cards, as well as server-related errors disrupting Transport Department services.

Responding to the question, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy stated that following directions from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), DLs and RC Smart Cards are being issued seamlessly through Aadhaar-based verification and online services. He added that Karnataka currently offers 31 transport-related services through both e-KYC and non-e-KYC modes. "There are rare instances of server downtime, and whenever such issues occur, we immediately coordinate with NIC to resolve them promptly," he added.

Minimum temperature in city drops to 15 degrees Celsius


The forecast for Bengaluru and the neighbourhood for the next two days is a clear sky, fog and mist, very likely in the early morning in some areas. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Winter has truly set in Bengaluru, as the city has been experiencing chilly weather for the last couple of days. The minimum temperature has dropped to 15 degrees Celsius. According to the India Meteorological Department, Bengaluru's data recorded at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, the minimum temperature in the city was 15.5°C.

The two other observatories, the HAL Airport and the Kempegowda International Airport, also recorded a minimum temperature of 15°C. The average minimum temperature in Bengaluru for December is 16.4°C. "The minimum temperature has dropped to 15°C. There is a drop of 1°C from the normal temperature," Dr. N. Puviarasan, scientist and head, IMD Bengaluru said.

The local forecast for Bengaluru and the neighbourhood for the next two days is a clear sky, fog and mist, very likely in the early morning in some areas. "Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 27°C and 17°C respectively," it states.

According to IMD records, the lowest minimum temperature recorded for December was 8.9°C on December 29, 1883. In the last few years, the minimum temperature plummeted on many occasions. On December 11, 2016, the city recorded a minimum temperature of 12°C while on December 24, 2011, the minimum was 12.8 °C.

The all-time record for maximum temperature recorded for a December day was 31.4°C on December 27, 2018. The winter season in Bengaluru is between November and January with the latter being the coldest month of the season.

KSDL pays ₹108.62 cr. dividend to State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL) on Tuesday presented a dividend cheque for ₹108.62 crore from its profit to the State government.

At a function in Belagavi, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil and KSDL Chairman Nada Gowda handed over the cheque to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The amount is 30% of KSDL's profit of ₹362.07 crore for the fiscal 2023-24. It is the highest-ever dividend paid by the enterprise in its history. This apart, a cheque for ₹5 crore was also handed over to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Allahabad HC grants Sushil Singhania anticipatory bail

Press Trust of India
PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to Sushil Singhania, uncle of Nikita Singhania, in the suicide case of Artificial Intelligence engineer Atul Subhash. The order was passed by Justice Ashutosh Srivastava, who was hearing an anticipatory bail filed by Atul's wife, Nikita Singhania, and in-laws.

Nikita was arrested from Gurugram, Haryana, while her mother, Nisha and brother, Anurag, were picked up from Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj for abetting Subhash's suicide, a Bengaluru Police official said. He said they were arrested on Saturday morning, brought to Bengaluru, and, after being produced before a local court, sent to 14 days' judicial custody.

In the Allahabad High Court, senior counsel Manish Tiwary, at the very outset, submitted that the Bengaluru City Police have already arrested the wife, mother-in-law and brother-in-law of the deceased, and the present anticipatory bail application is being pressed on behalf of the applicant Sushil Singhania alone. It was argued that the arrests had been made on the basis of an alleged suicide note and a video which have gone viral online. Sushil Singhania is facing the media trial of the highest level, it was argued.

It was also submitted that Sushil Singhania is 69 years old and has a chronic medical condition. He is virtually incapacitated and there is no question of him abetting the suicide.

CCB unearths drug racket being run from grocery store

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In one of the biggest drug seizures so far, the Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested a 40-year-old woman from Nigeria and recovered 12 kilograms of MDMA crystals worth ₹24 crore.

The accused, Roselime Oluchi Ikeoha, was allegedly peddling drugs to her customers through a grocery shop which she was running in T.C. Palya for the last five years.

Acting on specific information about the suspect who stayed in T.C. Palya, a team of officials raided her store and recovered the drugs which she had concealed in soap packets, rice covers and dry fish tin boxes, City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said here on Tuesday.

"During the raid, the police recovered a large quantity of drugs from the premises belonging to the suspect. Around 70 SIM cards have been recovered. The suspect confessed that she supplied the drugs to foreign nationals, college students and private firm employees, who were her regular customers," he said. A preliminary probe revealed that the accused used to source the drugs from her contact - a woman from Mumbai - through various means of transportation. Efforts are on to secure the supplier who is on the run, Mr. Dayananda said. The accused had come to city on a business visa and overstayed, the police added.

The police have stepped up vigil against drug peddlers ahead of the new year and seized over 180 kg of marijuana from four different police stations worth over ₹1 crore

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18	
RISE 06:35	SET 17:57
RISE 20:57	SET 09:16
THURSDAY, DEC. 19	
RISE 06:36	SET 17:58
RISE 21:51	SET 10:02
FRIDAY, DEC. 20	
RISE 06:36	SET 17:58
RISE 22:40	SET 10:43

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	21
Mysuru	29	16
Bengaluru	27	15

Bengaluru Today
26°C The dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
23°C Morning will be cool. The day will be pleasant. Night will be slight cool. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Underweight children registered in M.P.'s Anganwadi centres

5.41 in lakh. The State government informed the legislative Assembly that at least 5.41 lakh underweight children were enrolled at Anganwadi centres in Madhya Pradesh this year, with Dhar district having the highest number. 35,950 children were registered in Dhar. PTI

Septic tank workers belonging to the SC category

67 In per cent. According to official data, over 67% of sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) in India belong to the Scheduled Castes category. Union Minister of State Ramdas Athawale said that out of 54,574 validated sewer and septic tank workers, 37,060 are from the SC category. PTI

The death toll due to Cyclone Chido in Mozambique

34 At least 34 people have been killed by Cyclone Chido in Mozambique since it made landfall there, the UN humanitarian agency OCHA said on Tuesday, citing figures from the southern African country's disaster agency. The French island of Mayotte bore the brunt of the storm. REUTERS

Uttar Pradesh government's second supplementary Budget

17,865 In ₹ crore. The Uttar Pradesh government presented the second supplementary Budget for FY2024-25, amounting to ₹17,865 crore. The Budget was tabled on the second day of the winter session of the State Assembly. PTI

Magnitude of the earthquake recorded in Vanuatu

7.3 An earthquake with a 7.3 magnitude struck just off the coast of Vanuatu on Tuesday, causing widespread destruction in the South Pacific island as the injured began arriving at a hospital and unconfirmed reports of casualties emerged. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The Constitution on minority rights

The preservation of diversity is the rationale behind minority rights in the Indian Constitution. On Minority Rights Day, it is essential to remember Franklin Roosevelt's words, 'no democracy can long survive which does not accept as fundamental to its very existence the recognition of the rights of minorities'

LETTER & SPIRIT

Faizan Mustafa

The debate on minority rights should be lifted from its current framework of communalism versus secularism and placed in the theoretical field of democracy and substantive equality. Recognising the importance of minority rights, the UN General Assembly adopted a declaration on the 'Rights of Persons Belonging to National, or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities' on December 18, 1992. This date is celebrated as Minority Rights Day all over the world. Minority rights are essential in a democratic polity because as Franklin Roosevelt reminds us "no democracy can long survive which does not accept as fundamental to its very existence the recognition of the rights of minorities".

Origin of minority rights

Article 19 of the Austrian Constitutional Law (1867) acknowledged that ethnic minorities have an absolute right to maintain and develop their nationality and languages. Similar provisions were found in Hungary's Act XLIV of 1868, and in the Constitution of the Swiss Confederation of 1874, which granted the three languages of the country equal rights in civil services, legislation and in courts. The provisions of the peace treaties after the First World War, focused particularly on the status of minorities. Minority protections were codified in the five treaties negotiated between the allied and associated powers on the one hand, and Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Greece and Yugoslavia on the other. Special provisions for minorities were incorporated in the peace treaties with Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Turkey, while Albania, Finland and Iraq declared that they would protect their minorities. Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights gives every individual a right to community – that is the right to enjoy their own culture and to participate in cultural forums, associations etc.

Debate in the Constituent Assembly

The framers of the Constitution showed profound sensitivity to the needs of minorities. Pandit G.B. Pant, moving the resolution to set up an Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights and the Rights of Minorities, explicitly stated that the "satisfactory solution of questions pertaining to minorities will ensure the health, vitality and strength of the free State of India... now it is necessary that a new chapter should start and we should all realise our responsibility. Unless the minorities are fully satisfied, we cannot make progress; we cannot even maintain peace in an undisturbed manner." The committee headed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel examined the issue of minority rights and accordingly Articles 25 to 30 were enacted in our Constitution. The underlying argument in these Articles is that individualistic universal rights are not of much use in a heterogeneous country such as India, and that one needs to have discussions on the basis of multiculturalism, difference, and the rights of minorities that mark contemporary political theory.

Rationale behind minority rights

The preservation of diversity is the rationale behind minority rights in the Indian Constitution. In fact, individualistic rights under Articles 14-18 (equality), 19 (free speech) and 25 (freedom of religion) are not enough for the conservation of language, script or culture which comes under Article 29. One may not be individually unjustly treated but it hurts if the group to which one belongs is subjected to ridicule or denied any value. This also undermines an individual's right to dignity. An individual's right to culture holds little meaning or significance, unless the community of which a person is a member of, or is identified with, is accorded the right to exist in a viable form. It requires not only the presence of a group that shares a common culture but a conducive environment in which such cultures can flourish. Thus, under Article 30 both religious and linguistic minorities are allowed to establish and administer institutions of their choice so that such a space is created in these institutions.

Recently, a seven judge Bench in *Aligarh Muslim University* (2024) in unequivocal terms described Article 30 as a 'facet of equality and non-discrimination'. A nine judge Bench in *St. Xavier's College Society* (1974) too had observed that "the whole object of conferring the right on minorities under Article 30 is to ensure that there will be equality between the majority and the minority. If the minorities do not have such special protection, they will be denied equality." In *Keshavananda Bharati* (1973), rights under Article 30 were held to be part of the basic structure which even Parliament cannot change through a constitutional amendment.

What are minority rights?

Interestingly, though the term 'minority' has been used in four places in the Constitution no definition of the term 'minority' has been given. The Supreme Court has consistently held that minorities are to be defined at the level of the State. Since Hindus are a religious minority in Punjab, Kashmir and in the northeastern States, they too are entitled to minority rights. There are hundreds of Hindu minority institutions in India.

Article 29(1) lays down that 'any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same'. This provision signifies two vital dimensions. First, it concedes that different groups do have different cultures and that all people may not have just one culture. Since these linguistic and religious cultures are valuable for their members, they need to be given explicit rights to conserve their own culture especially since such minority cultures can face disadvantages in a majoritarian society. Secondly, the right to culture is an individualistic right, that is, individuals have been given the right to preserve their distinctive culture.

Article 30 guarantees that all religious and linguistic minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of 'their choice'. In the *re Kerala Education Bill* (1957), the Supreme Court said that the dominant word in Article 30 is 'choice' and minorities can expand their choice as much as they want. The court also said that the term 'educational institution' includes universities. The courts have also been consistent in extending protection under Article 30 to pre-Constitution institutions in cases like *S.K. Patro* (1969), *St. Stephens* (1992) and *Azeez Basha* (1967). In the latest judgment of *Aligarh Muslim University* (2024), the majority has held that even an institution of national importance can claim minority character.

Additionally, Article 350 A provides for instruction in the primary stages of education in the mother tongue, and Article 350 B for the appointment of a special officer for linguistic minorities. Their religion based personal laws have also been constitutionally protected, for example, the customary law of Nagas. There is no religious qualification attached to the holding of high constitutional positions. There is also a National Commission for Minorities and a National Commission For Minority Educational Institutions to deal with the problems of minorities.

Defining a minority

The 11 judge Bench in the *TMA Pai Foundation* (2002) case had left unanswered the question of the indicia of minority institutions. Former Chief Justice Dr D.Y. Chandrachud in a historic judgment in the *Aligarh Muslim University* (2024) case has now laid down the indicia.

Interestingly, on the issue of indicia there was broad agreement amongst the seven judges. They all preferred holistic, broad and flexible yardsticks such as ideation – looking at the genesis or ideation or brain behind the idea. Moreover, the person taking the initiative must belong to the minority community. His intent must be to found an institution 'predominantly for the minority community' and other factors to be considered would be the collection of funds, getting land, construction of buildings and governmental approvals. It is not necessary that the administration must be vested within the minorities themselves. Right to administer is the consequence of establishment.

Though there is no right to get governmental aid, Article 30(2) explicitly says that the State cannot discriminate against a minority institution while granting aid. In the *re Kerala Education Bill* (1957) case, Chief Justice S.R. Das held that the State cannot impose such 'onerous' conditions either in granting aid or in giving affiliation to minority institutions that require surrendering the minority character of their institutions.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court has consistently maintained that minorities have no right to maladminister their institutions, and that the government can come up with reasonable regulations to insist on proper safeguards against maladministration, to maintain fair standards of teaching, and to ensure "excellence of the institutions." In *St. Xaviers* (1974), the top court explicitly observed that "under the guise of exclusive right of management, minorities cannot decline to follow the general pattern. In fact, they may be compelled to keep in step with others."

Faizan Mustafa is a constitutional law expert and Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna.

Nation for all: A woman holds up a poster during a protest against the CAA during Republic Day at Shaheen Bagh, in New Delhi in 2020. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

THE GIST

Recognising the importance of minority rights, the UN General Assembly adopted a declaration on the 'Rights of Persons Belonging to National, or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities' on December 18, 1992.

Article 29(1) lays down that 'any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same'.

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From Page One

Forest Dept. officials raid Cauvery emporium

"In this case, neither the person who purchased the sandalwood nor the one who sold it to the emporium obtained the necessary transit permit from the Forest Department. As a result, we raided the emporium and registered a case," the source said.

According to officials, they have booked Narayana Murthy, the manager of Cauvery Handicrafts Emporium, and Gaurav Saragoi, the alleged supplier of the sandalwood.

Officials revealed that the supplier had provided 435 kg of sandalwood over the past six months. "We are now investigating the case to determine how and when the sandalwood was supplied to the emporium, why the emporium failed to obtain the transit permit, and the origin of this sandalwood," officials added.

54% feel border dispute along LAC biggest stressor in India-China relations, finds survey

The survey also asked respondents whether ties with China would have been better had President Xi Jinping not been in charge in Beijing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Takshashila Institution 2024 survey report on 'Pulse of the People: State of India-China Relations' was released on Tuesday. According to the report a key takeaway was that about 54% of the respondents felt that the border dispute along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was the biggest stressor in the India-China relations.

"A majority of respondents (54.4%) shared the sentiment articulated by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, that the boundary dispute along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is at the front and center of the current tensions in India-China relations," states the report.

To a question on whether India should be open to Chinese talent working in the Indian industrial setup in sectors where Indians do not have requisite skills, 54% said 'yes', while 39% said 'no', and 8.4% said 'can't say'.

"The survey asked respondents whether ties with China would have been better had President Xi Jinping not been in charge in Beijing, and if China had been a multi-party democracy similar to India. Interestingly, a vast majority (61.5%) believe that if the Chinese political ecosystem was more democratic, with multiple political parties contesting for leadership and power, India's relations with China may well have been better," the report stated.

It further added that many expressed uncertainty (46.6%) that if anyone other than Xi were leading China, India-China relations would be better. "This indicates that there is a belief that the trajectory of the relationship between the two rising neighbours is bound to be difficult regardless of the leader in power in Beijing," it added.

Anushka Saxena, staff research analyst at the institute's Indo-Pacific Studies Programme, said that survey comprised 11 inquiries and that they received responses from over 600 respondents with diverse backgrounds. "One third of the respondents were youth," she said.

A panel discussion on a new modus vivendi with China was also held after the release of the report.

Software edition of hackathon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), Bengaluru, hosted the Software Edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 finals, a two-day event recently.

Students from 17 institutes from Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Delhi, Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar participated in the SIH.

Team Tech Wave, from IES's College of Technology, Bhopal; Team Drop Squad from Shivajirao S. Jondhale College of Engineering, Sonarpada; and Team Akatsuki_AU, from Avantika University, Ujjain, were declared winners, and each of them were awarded ₹1 lakh each.

The chief guests were N.H. Siddalingaswamy, Advisor to AICTE, and Jiwan Kumar Pandit, Scientist G from U.R. Rao Satellite Centre.

E-Procurement cell
Office of the Executive Officer
Nagar Parishad Mihijam, Jharkhand
Urban Development & Housing Department

e-procurement Notice
Tender notice
NIT No. – 05/2024-25, Date:-17.12.2024

SL. No.	E-TENDER REF NO.	NAME OF WORK	TENDER VALUE	TIME OF COMPLETION	EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT	BID DOCUMENT FEES
1	NPM/ SBD/02/ 2024-25	मिहिजाम नगर परिषद अन्तर्गत फुटबॉल स्टेडियम निर्माण	49064100.00	12 Month	490641.00	10000.00
2	Date of Publication of tender on website			20.12.2024		
4	Closing date and time for receipt of tender on website			28.12.2024 at 11.00 AM		
5	Opening date and time of opening of technical bid			30.12.2024 at 11.00 AM		
6	Name and address of office inviting tender			Office of Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad Mihijam		
7	Helpline number of e-procurement cell			+91 7261817234		

NOTE: AUTHORITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL TENDER WITHOUT SIGHTING ANY REASON THEREOF. FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN ON WEBSITE HTTP://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Officer
Nagar Parishad Mihijam

PR 342257 (Urban Development and Housing) 24-25 (D)

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560051. CIN: U37100KA2021SGC147734, TAN:BLRB21071B PAN:AAJCB8656M, Email-Id: bluruswml2021@gmail.com

No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/08/2024-25 Date: 17-12-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.
The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the Valid Registration Certificate and shall be submitted through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Standard Tender Bid Document).

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Completion	Eligibility of Contractor
1	Village Developmental works Doddaballapura Constituency around M S G P Waste Processing Plant.	396.63	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.4,95,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	3 months	General
2	Village Developmental works Bommanahalli Constituency around K C D C Waste Processing Plant.	396.76	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.4,95,200/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	3 months	General

Calendar of Events:
1. Date of Uploading of the Bid Document in KPP Portal: **21.12.2024.**
2. Date of Pre bid meeting: **27.12.2024 at 15:00 hours** in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560052.
3. Last date of submission of Bids in KPP Portal: **08.01.2025 before 16:00 hours.**
4. The Technical Bid opening date in KPP Portal: **09.01.2025 after 16:30 hours.**

NOTE:
1. The bidder shall quote rates excluding GST in KPP Portal.
2. No Joint Venture/Consortium is permissible. The validity of tender is 90 days from the date of opening of tender.
3. Aspiring Bidders/Contractors who have not registered in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal should the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) register before participating through the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
4. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
5. All the required information required for Bids must be filled and submit online.

For details, registration and e-payment visit GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) or contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Helpdesk.

DIPR/CP/3827/AAA/2024-25

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी।
अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या– **RDD/SD/KHUNTI/05/2024-25**
1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	खूँटी जिलान्तर्गत तोरपा प्रखण्ड के जिलिंगबुरू में स्थानीय नाला पर पुल निर्माण।	3,26,17,600/–	6,52,500/–	10,000/–	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 16.12.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय–दिनांक 17.12.2024 से दिनांक 24.12.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, खूँटी
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –26.12.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 6201188328 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी।

PR 342172 Rural Development(24-25)D

Ministry of Culture Government of India
VISVESVARAYA INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM
(National Council of Science Museums)
Kasturba Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

ADVERTISEMENT No. 12/2024

Applications are invited within **31.12.2024** from eligible candidates having teaching/ research/ industry background for engagement as **Junior Mentor at Innovation Hub of Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Bangalore** on a monthly consolidated remuneration of **Rs. 37,000/- for a period one year**, further extendable on mutually agreed terms subject to satisfactory performance. For eligibility criteria and other details, please refer to our website **www.vismuseum.gov.in** The Director, VITM reserves the right to cancel the engagement process at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. **CANDIDATES WHO HAVE ALREADY APPLIED IN RESPONSE TO ADVT NO. 09/2024 NEED NOT APPLY ONCE AGAIN.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mr.Hanumantharayappa.C S/o. Chowdappa, Aged about 70 years, residing at No. 107, Janatha Colony, Near Anganavadi, Kumbarahalli, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore- 560090, has LOST THE ORIGINAL HAKKU PATRA DATED 21.05.1992 ISSUED BY THE TAHSILDAR, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK, BANGALORE IN RESPECT OF SITE NO.08 FORMED IN SURVEY NO.08 MEASURING EAST TO WEST 48 FEET AND NORTH TO SOUTH 28 FEET, SITUATED AT KUMBARAHALLI VILLAGE, HESARAGHATTA HOBLI, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK IN FAVOUR OF LAKSHMAMMA, LOST AT KUMBARAHALLI VILLAGE, HESARAGHATTA HOBLI, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK ON 15.07.2024 BETWEEN 01:00PM TO 02:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 17.11.2024 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.1387237/2024, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.

if any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 7 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.40, 2nd Floor, 71st Cross, near 6th Block Signal, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line**: 080-48520073

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Smt.Narayanamma W/o B. Hanumanthaiah** to bring to the notice of the general public that the first page of the **original Sale Deed** dated 21/03/2016 registered as document No.05643, in Book-I, stored in CD No.GNRD117 in the Office of Sub Registrar Ganganagar Bangalore, is missing/lost while traveling near Whitefield and the same are not traceable. A Complaint is lodged in **online 16.12.2024 vide lost report bearing No.1385928/2024**.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing **No, 26,** House list No.75, Assessment No.99/A Situated at **Nagavara village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring East to West: 30 feet and North South: 45 feet in all measuring **1350 Square Feet** and bounded on:-

East by: Property No.25 and 25/1, West by: Property No.27, North by: Property No.12, South by: Road.

Rashmi.R, B.A.L LL,B
M/s. Rashi Legal,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.B2-1250/51, Manu Teja Towers, A.Dasarahalli, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore 560 079. M-9538178060

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

Online tender are invited for the following work:

GeM Portal Bid No: GEM/2024/B/ 5705298, Date: 13-12-2024

Description of Work: Hiring of Breakdown Vehicle for Electric Loco Shed, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://gem.gov.in**

Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Rolling Stock/Erode.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-33
Dated : 12-12-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification for Elimination of LC Gates No. 37, 19, 89, 90, 315, 319, 356, 436 by construction of RUBs in Hubballi Division.	Rs. 1,40,59,557/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 06-01-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / TRD
PUB/627/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-36
Dated : 12-12-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Outsourcing of TRD maintenance and breakdown activities in Indi Road depot, Aliyabad depot, Bagalkot depot, Hole Alur depot & Ghatprabha depot and Shedbal Depot sections of Hubballi Division for a period of 2 years.	Rs. 12,76,28,031/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 06-01-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / TRD
PUB/626/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Textile Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,
ESTD. : 1963
Administrative Office : No.16, 1st 'A' Main Road, Sudhamanagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
Ph: 48521054; Email: textilecbl@gmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Appendix IV (Rule 8-(1))

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bengaluru under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in compliance of Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the following borrowers/mortgagor/surety to repay the amounts mentioned in the notice and interest thereon, outstanding in the loan accounts at Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Surety/Mortgagers in the following accounts having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Surety/Mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned herein below. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd., for amount and interest thereon & other charges.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Name of Surety	Description of the Property Mortgaged (With Boundaries)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Out/Standing as on the Date of Demand Notice Rs. Ps.
1	YELAHANKA BRANCH: MANJULA JEEVAN KISHORE IPL-EMI-126 USHARANI .M.V IPL-EMI-127 VENKATA RAMANA .M IPL-EMI-128	 Venkata ramana. M Shanthamma Manjula Jeevan Kishore Lalitha .M.V Usharani .M.V	All the Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing Municipal Khaneshumari Assessment No.1880-13, Now BBMP Khatha No. 37/1121/1093, Situated at 4th Cross, Chowdeshwari Layout, Yelahanka Town, Bangalore-560 064..Measuring East to West: 25 feet and North to South: 30 feet and bounded on: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property No.1879, **South by:** Property No.1881	05.08.2024 05.08.2024 05.08.2024 TOTAL	09-12-2024 09-12-2024 09-12-2024	Rs.9,96,166/- Rs.10,07,924/- Rs.5,04,216/- Rs.25,08,306/-

Amount paid if any by the above Borrowers after issuance of Possession Notice, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realization/settlement. Borrowers are advised to look into the provisions of Act 13(8) regarding the amount of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 18/12/2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Textile Co-operative Bank Ltd.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SD BALA, CA and Retired DGM SBI. Passed away suddenly and peacefully at 82 on 14 December 2024 at home in Coimbatore. Devi, Sruti, Anand (9940156512)

DEATH

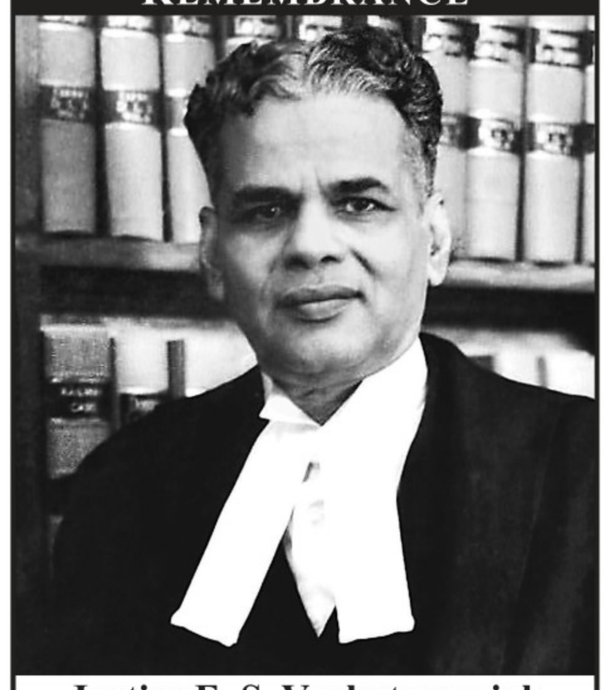
OBITUARY

D.O.B.: 15-7-1932
D.O.D.: 15-12-2024

B.RAMACHANDRAN
GM-Services, (Rtd.) MECON
Deeply mourned by
Family, Relatives & Friends
94494 85293, 94454 02027

BIRTH CENTENARY

BIRTH CENTENARY REMEMBRANCE



Justice E. S. Venkataramiah
(18.12.1924 to 25.09.1997)
Former Chief Justice of India

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
- H.W. Longfellow

Fondly Remembered by:

Justice B. V. Nagarathna, Sri. B. N. Gopala Krishna, Nayanatara B. G. & Prerana B. G.

LOKNITI-CSDS

Fully secure: EVMs and VVPATs kept in a storage room ahead of the vote counting for the Maharashtra Assembly elections, at a polling counting centre, in Akola on November 23. ANI

Are Congress's EVM allegations a legitimate concern or a strategic diversion?

It is important to note that the trust in Electronic Voting Machines has remained relatively steady over the past five years. In 2019, the then NES study indicated that over half the voters placed high trust in the machines, with nearly a quarter expressing moderate trust

Devesh Kumar
Sanjay Kumar

After the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the echoes of alleged Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) manipulation has once again reverberated through political spaces, particularly from the Congress party and its allies. This narrative of doubt had begun soon after Congress's unexpected loss in Haryana, bringing the EVMs under scrutiny.

The Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's strong demand to reintroduce ballot papers by replacing the EVM highlights a recurring scepticism about the established electoral process. While such concerns warrant attention, it is equally vital to evaluate the degree of public trust in EVMs and probe why such claims persistently surface.

Public confidence in EVMs

If EVMs were indeed vulnerable to manipulation, public opinion – the cornerstone of any democracy – would reflect such apprehensions. Understanding how much people trust EVMs provides crucial insights into whether voters feel their democratic rights are compromised. The National Election Study (NES) conducted by the Lokniti-CSDS earlier this year sheds light on this issue. In a survey across 21 States, the study revealed that a significant majority of voters expressed confidence in EVMs. Nearly one-third (31%) reported trusting the machines "a lot," while another two-fifths (43%) said they "somewhat" trusted them. This cumulative trust – approximately three-quarters of voters – indicates a strong vote of confidence in the EVM technology.

However, distrust lingers among a notable minority. Around one fifth (17%) of respondents stated they did not trust EVMs at all, a figure that merits attention. This scepticism was particularly pronounced among urban voters (19%), individuals with college degrees (18%), and marginalised groups such as Dalits (19%) and Muslims (23%). Furthermore, distrust peaked in some States as compared to others. This scepticism was observed the highest in Tamil Nadu (30%), Rajasthan (24%), and Uttar Pradesh (23%). These findings indicate the need for a focused electoral outreach, and confidence-building measures by the Election Commission of India.

It is also important to note that the trust in EVMs has remained relatively steady over the past five years. In 2019, the then NES study indicated that over half the voters placed high trust in the machines, with nearly a quarter expressing moderate trust. While these proportions remain largely consistent in 2024, the share of those who distrust EVMs has risen slightly, from 14% in 2019 to 17% in 2024. This shift coincides with Congress's sustained narrative questioning EVMs, which seems to resonate among its voter base. Among those expressing distrust, nearly one-third voted for Congress (35%) and another one-fifth (19%) voted for its allies (Table 1 & 2). This pattern suggests that EVM scepticism has become a political tool – a strategic plank for Opposition parties rather than a pressing concern for the Election Commission of India to resolve.

Broader implications

While Congress is entitled to question its electoral setbacks, as the principal Opposition party, it bears a greater responsibility to present credible alternatives to voters. Relying on EVM-related conspiracy theories as a "primary" critique of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party not only undermines the integrity of democratic institutions but risks alienating voters seeking substantive changes in their lives and policy solutions. For instance, alleging that the BJP "allowed" the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) to win in Jharkhand reflects a narrative that can not only be implausible but is also mean-spirited.

Instead of fixating on claims that have not yet been verified by the Election Commission of India, Congress must confront a larger question. Is the party genuinely offering a compelling vision for India, or is it merely evading the need for introspection by blaming its defeats on external factors? To make a strong comeback the party must craft a distinctive agenda capable of countering the BJP's ideological narrative that runs at a mega scale. Resorting to allegations of EVM manipulation without real-time, verifiable evidence risks eroding public confidence in India's electoral process.

Devesh Kumar is a researcher with Lokniti-CSDS. Sanjay Kumar is a professor with CSDS and a political commentator. Views expressed are personal.

Trust in the machine

If EVMs were indeed vulnerable to manipulation, public opinion—the cornerstone of any democracy—would reflect such apprehensions. Understanding how much people trust EVMs provides crucial insights into whether voters feel their democratic rights are compromised

Table 1: Over two-thirds indicated trust in EVMs in the last two Lok Sabha elections (2024 & 2019)

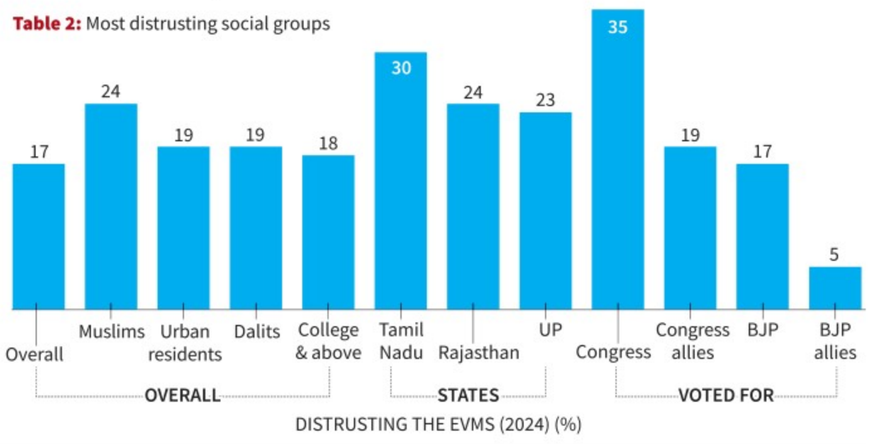
Trust in EVMS	National Election Study 2024	National Election Study 2019
A lot of trust	31	52
Some trust*	43	26
Not much	-	8
No trust at all**	17	6

Note: *The rest did not respond.*

**Used as some trust in 2024 and somewhat in 2019 National election study.*

***Used as No trust at all in 2024 and not at all in 2019 National election study*

Table 2: Most distrusting social groups



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"How was the party last night?"

"We had a good time till Suresh started throwing bones into the bonfire."

"Why did he do that?"

"He said he wanted to make a 'bonefire'."

"A bonefire! How interesting! Do you know that the word 'bonfire' was originally 'bonefire'?"

"Really? Why would anyone want to throw bones into a fire?"

"I'll tell you. The first syllable of 'bonefire' is actually from the middle English word 'bane' meaning 'bone'."

"O.K. But it still doesn't answer my question."

"Patience! Patience!! You see, during the middle ages, the plague used to occur regularly in Europe."

"The plague? You mean the disease that killed hundreds of people."

"Not hundreds, but thousands and thousands of people. In order to prevent the disease from spreading, what people used to do was to throw the dead bodies into a fire."

"You mean they used to burn them?"

"Exactly. Big fires were made and the bodies were thrown into them. And these fires were called 'bonefires'."

"How terrible! So to begin with, the word 'bonfire' was not associated with anything pleasant."

"Definitely not. And it was to forget this unpleasant association with the word that over the years it was slowly changed from 'bonefire' to 'bonfire'. Now 'bonfire' means "a large fire made outdoors for burning rubbish or as a celebration."

"Thank goodness for that. No one can refute that sitting around a bonfire is an enjoyable experience these days."

"Refute? You mean 'deny', don't you?"

"Is there a difference between the two?"

"There most certainly is. When you 'deny' something, all that you're doing is asserting that what has been said is not true. For example, I can accuse you of stealing my watch. If you deny it, you would merely be making a statement that you didn't steal it."

"So it would be my word against yours."

"Exactly. But if on the other hand, you refute it, you provide evidence to disprove what I have said. Your evidence will prove that my accusation is false and groundless."

"I see. So you cannot use the word 'refute' without any evidence. You've made the distinction between the two words very clear. I can't deny that!"

"Thank you very much."

Published in The Hindu on June 7, 1994.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the various events that happened on this day throughout history

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

On this day in 1865, by proclamation of the U.S. Secretary of State, the _____ amendment to the Constitution, outlawing slavery, officially entered into force, having been ratified by the requisite States on December 6. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

This Swiss-born German artist was born on this day in 1879. His highly individual style was influenced by movements in art that included expressionism, cubism, and surrealism. He was a natural draftsman who experimented with and eventually deeply explored colour theory, writing about it extensively. Identify the artist.

QUESTION 3

An important milestone became a part of the U.S. history on this day, involving President-elect Donald Trump. What was it?

QUESTION 4

This TV special, an adaptation of Dr. Seuss's classic children's book, aired for the first time on this day, in 1996, and became a holiday staple. Name the special.

QUESTION 5

Two Hollywood celebrities, who, although have never worked together in the same film, were born on this day, one in 1963 and the other in 1946. If the former is known for his portrayal of unconventional characters, the latter enjoyed great commercial success with movies *Jaws* and *Schindler's List*. Name them.

QUESTION 6

A British guitarist of the rock band the Rolling Stones was born on this day. Name him.

Visual question:
Identify this Czech writer and later, President, who died on this day in 2011.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The only major American sport team that is community-owned. **Ans: Green Bay packers**

2. The club playing in English league Two that was founded in 2002 by supporters of another club. **Ans: AFC Wimbledon**

3. This country legally requires teams to give '50%+1' voting rights to its fans in order to compete in top domestic leagues. **Ans: Germany**

4. Name the only fan-owned professional football club currently existing in India. **Ans: Travancore FC**

5. Name the four Spanish first division clubs that have resisted legal restructuring remaining under the control of its fans or socios. **Ans: Real Madrid FC, FC Barcelona, Athletic Bilbao, and CA Osasuna**

Visual: Fans of this community-owned English club displayed this banner. **Ans: FC United of Manchester**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Parimal Das| Arun Kumar Singh| Mohan Lal Patel| Tito Shiladitya

Word of the day

Vocational:
of or relating to a vocation or occupation; especially providing or undergoing training in special skills

Synonyms: career, calling

Usage: *A key part of our campaign was to emphasise the importance of vocational education.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/vocationalpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /vəʊˈkeɪ.ʃən.əl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Tumakuru records highest number of C-section deliveries in Karnataka

This year, 80% of all deliveries in private hospitals and 55% in public hospitals were through C-section in the district

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Tumakuru district has been consistently recording the highest percentage of C-section deliveries in the State. In fact, the overall percentage of C-section deliveries in this district (both public and private hospitals put together) has gone up from 63% in 2022-2023 to 67% in 2024-2025 (from April to October), according to data from the State Health Department.

Data revealed that C-section deliveries in private hospitals in this district have seen a jump from 76% in 2022-2023 to 80% this year. At public hospitals, the increase is from 52% in 2022-2023 to 55%.

When overall State figures are considered, Caesarean section deliveries in both public and private hospitals have seen a jump from 38% in 2022-2023 to 46% in 2024-2025 (from April to October). While the rate of increase has been huge in private hospitals - from 48% in 2022-2023 to 61% this year (from April to October), public hospitals too have seen a substantial rise from 32% in 2022-2023 to 36% this year.

The lowest rate has been recorded in Yadgir, Kodagu, Raichur, Vijayapura and Kalaburagi, where the percentage is below 40%. Yadgir has the least percentage of C-section deliveries at 32% in private hospitals and 15% in public hospitals this year. Overall, C-section deliveries in Yadgir have risen from 11% in 2022-2023 to 16% this year.

While Bengaluru Rural is among the top five districts with a high C-section rate, in Bengaluru Urban, C-section deliveries have shot up from 40% in 2022-2023 to 49% this year (from April to October).

Top five districts

Public hospitals | Private hospitals | Total

Districts	2024-2025*			2023-2024			2022-2023		
Tumakuru	55%	80%	67%	54%	78%	65%	52%	76%	63%
Chitradurga	50%	84%	61%	50%	83%	60%	48%	77%	56%
Chikkamagaluru	49%	75%	60%	44%	77%	58%	45%	72%	55%
Udupi	52%	60%	58%	51%	61%	58%	47%	59%	55%
Bengaluru Rural	50%	67%	57%	47%	66%	54%	46%	69%	55%

*April to October

C-section audit

The State Health Department is now planning an audit of all C-section deliveries conducted in Karnataka.

Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare Department), told *The Hindu* on Tuesday, "We are unable to analyse this trend in Tumakuru and it requires to be studied in detail. A team of experts from the departments of Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education apart from the private sector will be set up to conduct the audit and Tumakuru will be taken up on priority."

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao had on Monday highlighted the rising trend of C-section deliveries in the State in the Legislative Council and said, "Private hospitals are increasingly performing Caesarean deliveries because they generate more income from C-sections and can be performed easily. It is essential to curb this from the point of view of the health of the mother and the child."

Contributing factors

Savitha C., Medical Superintendent of the State-run Vani Vilas Hospital, attributed the rising trend to several factors including late conception, infertility issues and low tolerance level for labour pain among women. "While vaginal deliveries are not advisable in high-risk pregnancies, most women go in for a C-section by choice due to perceived lower risks. Besides, the one-child norm, infertility issues due to Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD) and obesity and IVF pregnancies also contribute to the rising trend of C-section deliveries. What is concerning is that obesity is high even in urban slums," Dr Savitha said.

Midwifery-led unit

The doctor said the government was setting up midwifery-led care units in district hospitals to mentally and physically prepare women (who are not from the high-risk category) to go in for vaginal deliveries. "We have a midwifery-led unit running in Vani Vilas since January 2023. Over a 100 deliveries are conducted through this unit every month here," she added.

College celebrates graduation day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 28th graduation day of RajaRajeswari Dental College and Hospital was held on Monday. A total of 131 students graduated, and a record of 68 students received gold medals.

The chairman of RajaRajeswari Dental College and Hospital A.C. Shanmugam highlighted the achievements of the students, faculty, and the college. He emphasised the dedication and hard work of the students and parents.

M.K Ramesh, Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences and chief guest of the event, stressed the importance of maintaining ethical standards in the profession, which would guide the graduates to greater success. Mr. Ramesh highlighted the need to stay updated on the latest technological advancements in dentistry.

RRDC's 32nd Annual Day was also celebrated on the same day.

The Hindu Lit for Life Dialogue in city on Dec. 20

THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE DIALOGUE 2025
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In association with CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) BANGALORE · INDIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As a prelude to The Hindu Lit for Life Literature Festival in Chennai on January 18 and 19, 2025, *The Hindu* will present Lit for Life Dialogue in Bengaluru.

This extension of the main festival will set the stage for insightful discussions, inspiring dialogues, and intellectual exploration.

The event will be held on December 20 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Christ (Deemed to be University), Koramangala, Bengaluru.

Event highlights

Murder She Wrote (4.10 p.m. - 5 p.m.). A session on the art of storytelling and mystery writing. Anita Nair and Harini Nagendra, acclaimed authors, in conversation with Jayapriya Vasudevan.

Sculpting Song into Clay (5.10 p.m. - 6 p.m.). A session celebrating creativity and art. G. Reghu, renowned sculptor, in conversation with Ina Puri.

A Life in Cinema (6.10 p.m. - 7 p.m.). An exploration of the magic of cinema and its legacy. Amol Palekar, celebrated actor and filmmaker, in conversation with Balaji Vittal.

The Lit for Life Dialogue offers an opportunity to engage with some of the most celebrated voices in politics and culture, setting the tone for the grand festival in January. It's a perfect blend of intellectual stimulation and cultural celebration, designed to feed your mind and soul.

To register scan the QR code or visit: https://newsth.live/LFLDBPA

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Hindu Lit for Life event is in association with Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, and the bookstore partner is Crossword.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

PRINCIPAL HONOURED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

Auden School Principal Ms Kalpana Santosh was honoured with the National Award by the Federation of Private Schools (FAP) for her exemplary leadership and dedication to academic and co-curricular excellence. This recognition stands as a proud achievement for the Auden School community, showcasing the Principal's visionary efforts and commitment to advancing the standards of education.

WINNING STATE LEVEL CHAMPIONSHIP

Indian Public School CBSE JBN proudly announces a prestigious achievement as their Under-16 football team emerged winners in a competition hosted by Gear International School. Competing against many schools, the team showcased exceptional skill and determination. They are now selected to compete at the national level. Best wishes to the team for continued success.

SMOOTH SAILING TO SUCCESS

National Public School Rajajinagar student Dheemanth Mahesh of Grade 10 excelled at the Karnataka State Roller Skating Selection Trials in Mysore, winning four gold medals. His outstanding performance earned him a place to represent Karnataka at the Roller Skating Federation of India National Championship. The school community proudly cheers for his continued success and achievements.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU
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The application form and eligibility conditions are available on the college website

Filled-in applications to be sent to: **careers@psgim.ac.in** within 10 days from the date of this advertisement
Visit our website **www.psgim.ac.in**

एचएलएल लाइफकेयर लिमिटेड (भारत सरकार का उद्यम) HLL Lifecare Limited (A Government of India Enterprise)
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4. DEPUTY MANAGER (CIVIL)
5. ASSISTANT MANAGER (ARCHITECT)
6. SENIOR ACCOUNTS OFFICER
7. ACCOUNTS OFFICER

For more details and to apply online, please visit **www.lifecarehll.com/careers**. The last date for submitting the online application is **01.01.2025**. SC/ST/OBC/PwD candidates are eligible for relaxation as per Government of India guidelines.

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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No: CMRL/HR/CON/14/2024 dated 18-12-2024.

CMRL invites applications from qualified & experienced personnel for appointment of under mentioned posts on contract / deputation basis:-

Post Code	Name of the Post	Type of Employement	No. of Post	Consolidated Pay (Per Month)	Min. Exp. (Yrs)	Max. Age (Yrs)
1	Director (S & O)	Contract / Deputation	1	*Refer detailed Employment Notification No.CMRL-HR-CON-DEP-15-2024 dated 18-12-2024 for pay and other terms & conditions of employment*		
2	AGM (Legal)	Contract	1	Rs.1,60,000/-	17	47
	JGM (Legal)			Rs.1,45,000/-	15	43
3	JGM (Arch)		1			
	DGM (Arch)			Rs.1,25,000/-	13	40
4	Manager (Design)		1	Rs.85,000/-	7	38

Note:
i. The detailed employment notification will be published in CMRL website vide URL: **https://chennaimetrorail.org**. on or before **20-12-2024.**
ii. Salary is negotiable for deserving candidates.
iii. Last date for receipt of application is **20-01-2025.**

DIPR/1258/Display/2024

Chief General Manager (HR & Legal).

GENERAL

kerala IT EMPOWERING THE FUTURE — THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK

WANTED

Electronics Technology Parks-Kerala (Technopark), an autonomous organization fully owned by the Government of Kerala, invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of **Finance Executive** on contract basis.

Interested candidates may visit Technopark website **https://www.technopark.org/careers** for more details and submit online application along with copies of Certificates and testimonials on or before **5 pm**, **31.12.2024**. Only online applications will be accepted.

Chief Executive Officer
Park Centre, Technopark Campus, Karyavattom P.O
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 581 Phone: 0471-2700222

KERALA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND BOARD
2nd Floor, Felicity Square Building, Statue, MG Road, Thiruvananthapuram-695 001
Ph: 0471-2780900, email: financeadmin@kiifb.org

Notification No. FA-6/4234/2023/KIIFB Dated 28/11/2024

Invites applications for the post of Assistant Compliance Officer

Qualification	:	Associate Membership of Institute of Company Secretaries of India
Desirable Experience	:	M.COM/ LLB from a recognised university in India Minimum 3 years of post-qualification experience in secretarial compliances with listed entities/ practising firms conducting secretarial audit of listed entities.
Upper Age limit	:	35 years
Term	:	1 year contract (extendable subject to the sole discretion of the management of KIIFB).

Last date of online submission of application 05/01/2025
For more details and submitting applications online, please visit www.kiifb.org/careers

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Office: 08818-284234 / 284388

WANTED

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following posts in our institutions. Committed and devoted teachers with good Communication Skills in English and Computer Knowledge is essential.

1. Director (Academics)
Rtd Principals and Experience in CBSE is preferable.

2. Director (Accounts)
Chartered Accountant (or) Equivalent degree (or) Experience in MNC as Chief Accountant

3. Principals
(Any Post Graduation degree with B.Ed (or) M.Ed and minimum 10 years experience in teaching as PGT + 3 years Administrative Experience)

4. Vice-Principals
Any Post Graduation degree with B.Ed (or) M.Ed and minimum 10 years experience in teaching as PGT

5. PGTs
English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Accountancy, Business Studies, Artificial Intelligence & Informatics Practices. Relevant Post Graduation with B.Ed and CBSE experience is preferable.

6. TGTs
English, Telugu, Hindi, Mathematics, Science and Social Science. Relevant Post Graduation with B.Ed and CBSE experience is preferable.

7. PRTs
Primary Teacher, Mother Teacher & Pre-Primary Teachers in all the subjects. Any degree with B.Ed/ D.Ed/ Montessori Training.

8. Associate Subject Teachers in all the subjects
Any degree. The training programme is a period of 3 years and the trainees will be paid salary

9. Accountants
Any Commerce degree with Computer Knowledge, Tally and MS Office is mandatory

10.PETs & Swimming Coaches
Any degree with D.P.Ed./ B.P.Ed./M.P.Ed.

11.Abacus & Vedic Maths Teachers
Any degree with Mathematics and recognized certificate in Abacus and Vedic Maths

All the applications for above posts can be forwarded to bvbbvrkendracom@gmail.com on or before 31.12.2024

S. Sree Rama Raju
Secretary & Correspondent

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Bhavan's Tadepalligudem (CBSE) : vr.bvbrp@gmail.com, 08818-284233
Bhavan's Rajahmundry (CBSE) : bhavans.rjy@gmail.com, 0883-2556131
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SNIPPETS

T.B. Jayachandra gets best legislator award

T.B. Jayachandra, seven-time MLA and special representative of the Karnataka government in New Delhi, was honoured with the best legislator award for 2024, in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday. Speaker U.T. Khader presented the award in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, and Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani. Mr. Jayachandra, 75, was elected to the Assembly for the first time in 1978.

Yatnal meets Zameer

Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, BJP MLA, who is going hammer and tongs at Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan on the question of waqf properties, and the Minister, who has been countering him, shared a light moment at the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Tuesday.

As the meeting raised eyebrows, Mr. Yatnal took to social media to say that he went to Mr. Khan's office to discuss matters regarding the development of his Assembly constituency, especially housing issues. The former Union Minister also said he raised the issue of "disparities" while choosing beneficiaries from various minority communities.

Minister promises to pursue online gaming issue in court

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday assured the Legislative Assembly that the government would take strict measures against platforms running online games that have left many families badly hit.

Responding to a question raised by S.T. Somashekhar of the BJP, Dr. Parameshwara said five people in Bengaluru and one in Vijayanagara district ended their lives after suffering huge losses in online rummy this year.

The High Court has struck down amendments made to the Karnataka Police Act, 2000, that were aimed at stopping online games. Following this, the State moved the Supreme Court with a writ petition, he said. "I have a list of over 25 platforms that conduct online games. They do not have a licence. We will pursue the matter in the court and also bring in strict laws to stop online games," he said.

'Celebrate centenary of Ambedkar's visit to Nippani'

Karnataka is set for another centenary celebration. This year happens to be the centenary year of the visit of B.R. Ambedkar to Nippani, according to BJP MLA Shashikala Jolle.

Ms. Jolle, who represents Nippani in the Assembly, said Ambedkar, who had visited Chikkodi to attend to the local court, had stayed in Nippani. "Dr. Ambedkar had stayed in the house of one Varle in Nippani and had held two meetings there, she said. She appealed to the government to organise a programme on the lines of that being held to mark the centenary of the visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Belagavi.

Growth trajectory of State economy likely to be steady: Mid-Year Review

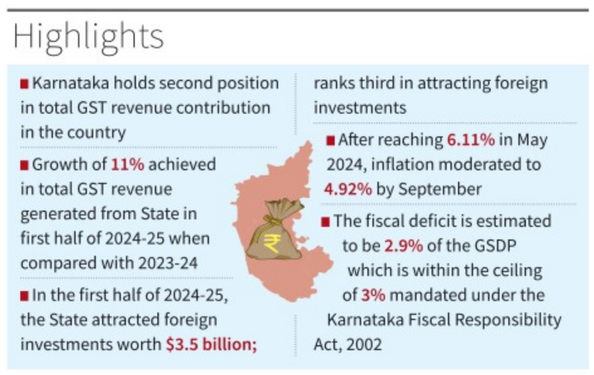
'State's fiscal performance in the first half of 2024-25 was exceptional, with 13.8% growth in revenue receipts over corresponding period of last year'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The growth trajectory of Karnataka's economy is likely to continue at a steady pace with a positive outlook in the agricultural sector that has significantly picked up due to the good southwest monsoon, according to the Mid-Year Review (MYR) of State Finances brought out by the Finance Department.

"The State's fiscal performance in the first half of 2024-25 has been exceptional, registering a growth in revenue receipts of 13.8% over the corresponding period of the previous year. The growth in revenue receipts reflects the progress of economic activity in the State," the MYR report tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday stated.

"The State's successful efforts to promote economic growth, including favourable policies, infrastructure development, and incentives to attract both domestic and international businesses point to a promising future for Karnataka. These initiatives are expected to create employment opportunities and strengthen industrial and service sectors," the report stated.



IN THE LEGISLATURE

GST revenue
According to the report, the growth in revenue receipts reflects the progress of economic activity in the State. The State continues to hold the second position in total GST revenue contributions to the country. A growth of 11% has been achieved in the total GST revenue generated from the State in the first half of 2024-25 when compared with 2023-24, it pointed out.

"The State's robust economic fundamentals driven by strong economic growth, increased consumer demand, better governance and the government's focus on creating a business-friendly environment has led to an increase in economic activity of the State," the MYR report stated.

Budget utilisation
The report said that "enhanced efficiency in administration has enabled the State to enhance Budget utilisation, with 37% of the Budget estimates already spent by September 2024, compared with 34% in the previous fiscal period."

The government's expenditure on capital projects increased by 28.3% in the first half of 2024-25 over 2023-24, demonstrating its commitment to infrastructure development, the report stated.

"As the government has given great importance to development projects, our State will continue to receive more capital investments. In the first half of 2024-25, the State attracted foreign investments worth $3.5 billion. Additionally, in the first half of the financial year, Karnataka ranks third in the country in attracting foreign investments," the report stated.

Inflation trends
The inflation trends in the State are under control, the report said, while pointing out that, after reaching a level of 6.11% in May 2024, inflation moderated to 4.92% by September. "A strong labour market, robust capital inflows and a stable financial sector highlight the solid foundations of macroeconomic stability in the State, supporting steady growth," it said.

Deficit within range
According to the report, the fiscal deficit is estimated to be 2.9% of GSDP which is within the ceiling of 3% mandated under Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2002.

The overall revenue receipts of the State were 45% of the Budget estimates in 2024-25, accounting for a growth rate of 14% when compared with the previous year's revenue collections in the first half, the report noted. The State's own tax revenue, which is the major component of revenue receipts, increased by 10.5% in the first six months of the fiscal year when compared with 2023-24's collections, the report stated.

'Hike in govt. staff salary major reason for revenue deficit'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Though the Mid-Year Review (MYR) of State Finances has patted the State's financial management, it has also pointed out that the revision of the pay scales of the Karnataka government employees, as per the recommendation of the 7th Pay Commission, is the major contributing factor for revenue deficit.

"The State has prudently managed its debt profile by monitoring its expenditure in 2024-25. The fiscal deficit and outstanding debt of the State are kept within the ceiling mandated under the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2002. However, increase in committed expenditure such as salary, pension, interest payments, and subsidies has pushed the State into revenue deficit," the MYR report that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, stated.

It also pointed out that efforts were being made to mobilise revenue receipts and rationalise expenditure to bring back the State into a revenue surplus position. The total liabilities of the State in absolute numbers is expected to increase from ₹5,81,228 crore in 2023-24 to ₹6,65,095 crore in 2024-25, the report noted.

Maternal deaths: Govt. open to any inquiry, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government is open to any inquiry into the issue of maternal deaths in government hospitals, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said in Belagavi on Tuesday.

"I will not shy away from any kind of inquiry, whether by a special investigation team, the Lokayukta, a joint legislature committee or a judicial inquiry. In fact, an inquiry will help as fix the system," Mr. Rao said in the Legislative Council.

He was responding to the issue raised by some members under Rule 30 of the conduct of business in the legislature on the five maternal deaths in Ballari district hospital recently.

As many as 25 members from across parties, spoke on the issue. They said the deaths recorded in Ballari were only a part of the problem and that maternal mortality remained an issue across all government hospitals in the State. Some of them suspected the involvement of the pharma company lobby behind the tragedy.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao speaking in the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

The Minister said the government formed a team of experts from the Rajiv Gandhi Health Sciences University. He described the steps taken so far, including stopping the use of compound sodium lactate injection I.P., an intravenous (IV) fluid that doctors commonly use to restore hydration and fluid balance, manufactured by Paschim Banga Pharmaceutical based in West Bengal, which was found to be sub-standard. He said the government had blacklisted the company twice in the past, but the firm obtained a stay against the order. He also said that the drug found to be sub-standard was found to be of safe during tests in a Central government laboratory.

K.S. Naveen and C.T. Ravi said Karnataka had the highest maternal mortality rates in south India, which was a matter of shame. Among districts, Chickballapur had a higher rate of deaths, well above the national average. Member Govinda Raju demanded free education and healthcare to the infants left behind by the new mothers who died in Ballari district hospital.

Amid walkout, Assembly passes Bill on appointing CM as Chancellor of RDPR varsity

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday passed the Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (Amendment) Bill that proposes to see the Chief Minister of the State as the Chancellor of the university, in place of the Governor, by voice vote, as members of the BJP and the JD(S) staged a walkout.

The Bill piloted by Minister for RDPR Priyank Kharge was condemned by members of the BJP and the JD(S), while Congress members welcomed it. Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, BJP members C.N. Ashwath Narayan and others in the Opposition benches termed the Bill "a retrograde step" and said it would create a gap between the government and the Governor.

Mr. Kharge, defending the Bill, said, "This is being done to ensure effective administration in coordination with the State government. With the Chief Minister as the Chancellor, the university could improve its efficiency and take up initiatives to enhance the quality of education and research in the university."

Minister for Rural Development Priyank Kharge in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Tuesday.

'Curtailing powers'
Dr. Ashwath Narayan said the amendment Bill was intended to take away the freedom of the university, instead of making it autonomous. "I would have appreciated the Minister if he had opted to form a board of governors to handle the university. Instead, he is curtailing the powers of the Governor only to have free-hand to appoint the Vice-Chancellor of the university," he said.

Congress member Sharath Bachche Gowda came in support of the Bill, saying that there had been a delay in appointing Vice-Chancellors to various universities as the Governor had been busy with many responsibilities. The proposed changes would relieve the Governor from the additional burden. He also said that universities in Gujarat had the Chief Minister as the Chancellor.

Heated debate
The contents of the Bill led to a heated debate between members of the Congress and the BJP. Congress members K.M. Shivalinge Gowda and H.C. Balakrishna maintained that the Bill was necessary as the present Governor had been intervening in administrative matters regularly. Finally, the Bill was passed by voice vote.

'Over 99% sugarcane dues paid'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government is taking steps to ensure that all sugar factories pay dues to sugarcane supplying farmers on time, said Minister Shivanand Patil here on Tuesday.

The Minister for Agriculture Marketing and Sugar said factories had paid over 99% of all scheduled payments to farmers. As many as 77 of the 80 factories had made payments on time, he said. Dues of around ₹3.94 crore was pending, he said. In response to a question by member N. Ravikumar, the Minister said there was no record of farmers' suicides due to delayed payment of sugarcane arrears.

Separate law planned to prevent frauds in financial establishments

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday said the government would be introducing a separate law to prevent fraud in financial establishments, based on recommendations from an expert committee to be set up for the purpose.

He was replying to members' suggestions during the discussion on the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Legislative Council on Tuesday. The Minister said the present amendment Bill was aimed at expediting the ongoing legal processes of taking action against financial establishments involved in malpractices and frauds resulting in loss to depositors.

Earlier, speaking on the Bill, member Bhoje Gowda sought to know whether there could be a bar on the maximum interest offered by such institutions, while K.S. Naveen sought amendments to punish the main accused rather than the small fish. The Minister said the plan was to bring more amendments to the Act to bring down the number of frauds and malpractices and in a span of three-four months another amendment Bill would be brought before the House.

Assembly sees a marathon session

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly witnessed a marathon session on Monday, transacting till 12.50 a.m. of Tuesday, in Belagavi. The session that began around 10.30 a.m. went on till the wee hours of Tuesday, which included lunch break for an hour.

The House took up the question hour late in the night. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda replied on behalf of the government on not just revenue issues but also regarding almost all other subjects, including the Finance Department.

In all, 60 calling attention notices, 15 questions, three medium-term debates, and 11 Bills were taken up by the House since evening.

Though the Opposition BJP hailed Speaker U.T. Khader for the gesture of completing all the issues on the day's agenda through a marathon session, some leaders sarcastically remarked that he should declare himself "best MLA of the year".

Later, the Speaker told a private TV channel that the main intention behind having an extended session was to complete all the subjects that were part of the agenda. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok had cooperated with him when he had a telephonic discussion with them about the plan, he said.

Sub-panel mooted to look into fiscal health of universities

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar on Tuesday said the government was contemplating setting up a sub-committee to look into the issue of fiscal health of State-run universities and suggest measures for their fiscal empowerment.

Replying to the discussion on The Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, the Minister said the government was aware of the issues plaguing the financial health of universities. The sub-committee would consult experts and suggest remedial measures.

On the concern raised by BJP member Hemalata Nayak on the delay in issuing marks cards by universities, he said there was a need to bring uniformity in the way marks cards were issued. The government had set up a portal where all the marks cards were being uploaded.

House pays tributes to Tulasi Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Assembly on Tuesday paid rich tributes to tribal environmental activist Tulasi Gowda who passed away on Monday.

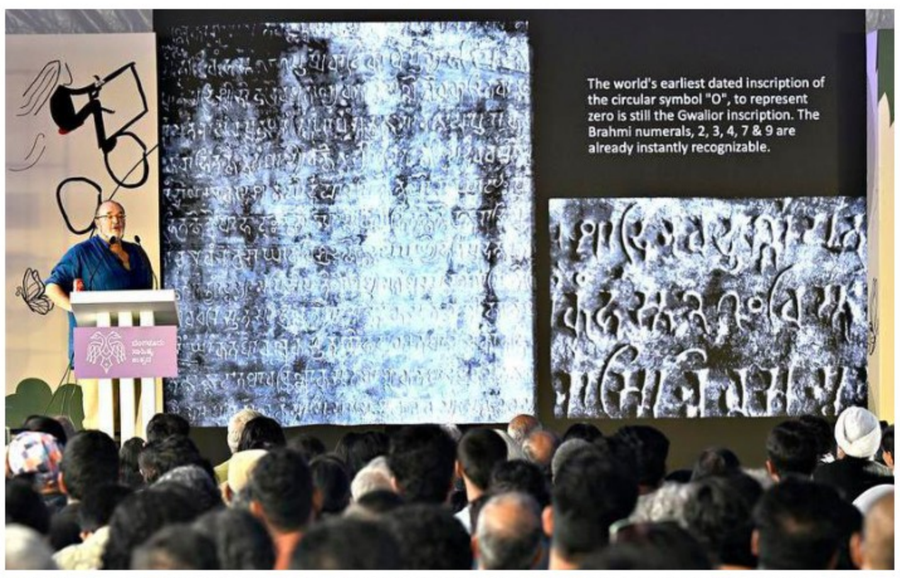
Moving an obituary motion, Speaker U.T. Khader hailed her contributions to society. Better known as *Vruksha Maathe,* Tulasi Gowda worked for over 65 years, helping the conservation of forests, he said.

Law Minister H.K. Patil and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok also spoke about her life and work.

‘Indian numbers are arguably the nearest thing the world has to a universal language’

Historian William Dalrymple spoke on Indian ideas being crucial foundations of our world, though Greece and China are touted as the most important sources of many critical existential answers

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU



Dalrymple explaining World’s earliest dated inscription of the circular symbol “0”, to represent zero is still in the Gwalior inscription. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Pattanam excavation site near Kodungallur in Kerala. FILE PHOTO

The Silk Road, that network of trade routes connecting the East to the West and synonymous with the Chinese civilisation, is often thought of as the first truly global trade route in history because many believe that it played a pivotal role in the promulgation of various cultures, ideas, and, of course, goods like silk. William Dalrymple, however, is sceptical of this idea.

“What people don’t realise is that the notion of a silk road only dates from the 1870s,” says the Scottish historian and writer to the vast crowds thronging the waterfront at the Lalit Ashok, Bengaluru, where his session, one of the most popular ones of the 13th edition of the Bangalore Literature Festival, took place.

No classical source

According to him, the German geographer and traveller Ferdinand von Richthofen first coined the term Silk Road, “not any classical source.” He believes that while Indian ideas, Indian philosophy, Indian mathematics, and Indian art are among the crucial foundations of our world, more often than not, ancient Greece and China are touted as the most important sources of many critical existential answers as well as perceived wisdom.

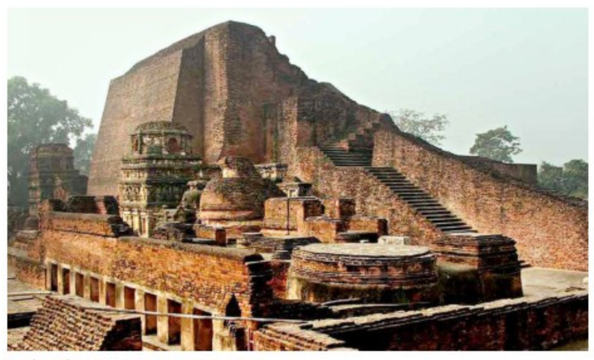
Ancient Greece’s influence in our history was tom-tommed by colonial powers, “not just British but also French, Dutch and Portuguese,” he says. And yes, “there’s also the answers provided by China,” says Dalrymple.

He claims that one of the reasons for the accepted view of the pre-eminence of the role of ancient China in shaping our worldview is that the country has been excellent at putting out its version of the world, one which makes the Red Dragon the centre of it. “Of all the ways in which it managed to do this, the idea of a Silk Road is probably the most important,” he says.

Roman coins

That the Silk Road was the first thing that broke down “the silos of nationalistic history, connecting East and West, creating a narrative of globalisation centuries before we think globalisation takes place,” is a persistent one, says Dalrymple, sharing a map taken from one of the many books focusing on this ancient trading route. This map, completely bereft of the many ports that studded India’s coastline back then, gives the impression “very clearly, that the action, the real story of trade and the passage of ideas, took place between Rome and China, of which India made no part of the network,” says Dalrymple.

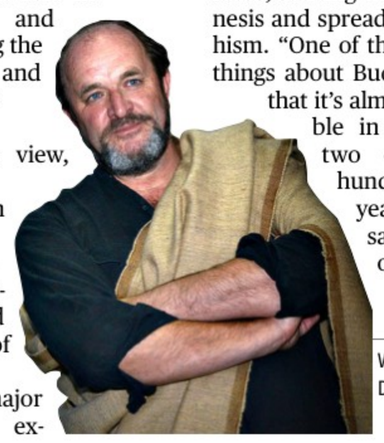
And yet, as another map he puts out depicting the presence of Roman coins across the world, including in places like Israel, Spain, France, Yemen and Afghanistan, indicates, “No Roman coin has ever been found in China,” he says, comparing this to India where vast quantities of these coins have been excavated, clearly proving that “Rome was the trading partner of India.”


Nalanda University. FILE PHOTO

So active was the trade between Rome and India back then that Pliny, the Elder, the Roman writer, historian, naval commander and naturalist who died in 79 CE while trying to conduct a rescue operation during the deadly eruption of Mount Vesuvius, seems to have complained about the impact of this partnership on Rome’s economy and its people’s moral moorings.

“He [Pliny] claims that India is the sink of all precious things in the world...the drain of all the gold in Rome,” he says. In Dalrymple’s opinion, all this evidence points to the need to expand our ideas of ancient trade and trade ideas. “We need to put India right at the centre of it,” he says.

The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World, Dalrymple’s latest book, does exactly that, proposing that India had a significant role in shaping and reshaping the ancient and medieval world.


William Dalrymple

In his view, besides trade in commodities like pepper and ivory, of course, three major Indian exports revolutionised the world: Buddhism, Sanskrit and Hinduism, and mathematics. “Indian numbers, numbers that we in the West call Arabic numbers, which we often got from Arabs, are arguably the nearest thing the world has to a universal language,” he says.

Roman influence on Indian art can be seen in the great masterwork of Gandharan art. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Dalrymple then proceeds to expand on these ideas, starting with the genesis and spread of Buddhism. “One of the strange things about Buddhism is that it’s almost invisible in the first two or three hundred years,” he says. “It is only with Ashoka that this begins to change.” This “waterfall of words” on Ashoka Pillars, across pillars, boulders and cave walls, transformed the fate of what was until only “a relatively minor local faith,” he adds.

With the help of Ashoka’s edicts and emissaries, Buddhism soon fanned across the country, seeping into parts of the arid, rocky Deccan Plateau and even landing on the shores of sea-fringed Sri Lanka, thanks to the efforts of Ashoka’s first-born son, Mahinda, who ended up converting the island country’s king, Devanampiya Tissa.

“So Sri Lanka becomes the centre for Buddhist missionary activity,” he says. “And you see this extraordinary spread of Indic ideas across Asia... out of Kandahar, up to Bactria and through China, right through Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia...” he argues.

Stories and more

Dalrymple also offers insights into the structure, functioning and legacy of Nalanda University, one of the greatest bastions of learning in the ancient world, located near the city of Rajagriha, close to Pataliputra (now Patna), claiming later universities like Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard were planned similarly. Another fascinating story gleaned from the talk is how Buddhism spread across China, thanks to the efforts of the Chinese monk Xuan Zang or Hiuen Tsang, who visited Nalanda University in the 7th Century and Wu Zetian, a minor concubine in the Chinese royal harem during the Tang dynasty, who ultimately became the country’s first and only empress. He also brings up an ancient Buddha statue discovered two years ago in a temple dedicated to the ancient Egyptian Goddess Isis, located in the port city of Berenike, “as multicultural an object as you ever imagine.” Sharing a picture of this statue, Dalrymple uses it to expand on the idea of India’s internationalism in the ancient world: the statue, largely Gandhāran in style, is carved in Alexandria, using marble from what is now modern Turkey to celebrate the arrival of a sea captain from India.

Another point that Dalrymple briefly expands on is India’s other significant contributions, Sanskrit and Hinduism, to Southeast Asia, stating that many people in this region adopted this faith. As a result of this, “stories from this part of the world, including the Ramayana and Mahabharata, becoming second nature to vast numbers of people there,” he says, the remnants of this cultural shift still lingering in temples like Prambanan in Indonesia and Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Maritime Prowess

India’s ally in its globalisation quest was its strategic geographical location and an understanding of monsoon winds and currents that lent to its maritime prowess. He says that the sheer scale of the Tibetan plateau gave India a gift that no other country had: a wind system that moves very fast in both directions, making it easy for Indian coastal communities to sail across the world.

He talks about the fabled city of Muziris, the ancient port of the Cheras, which many experts today say was located in Pattanam in Kerala’s Ernakulam District. “It is currently being dug up by P.J. Cherian,” says Dalrymple, who visited this very site only a week ago, referring to the work of the archaeologist.

These ancient maritime trade networks were transformative for the Indian economy “because your ancestors badly overcharged my ancestors (Scotland too was part of the Roman Empire),” he quips, a statement that elicited much applause, cheers and laughs from the crowd.

Sleuthing through Bengaluru: Crime writers unveil the city’s hidden narratives

Authors — Harini Nagendra, Harish Vasudevan, and Unmana — talk about their books and the city that inspired them

Aamirah Thayibah
BENGALURU

(From left) Madhavi Mahadevan , Harish Vasudevan , Unmana and Harini Nagendra during the Bangalore literature Festival in Bengaluru. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The tree-studded city of Bengaluru, not surprisingly, is a character in the stories of three of the city’s best-loved crime authors – Harini Nagendra, Harish Vasudevan, and Unmana.

In a conversation with writer Madhavi Mahadevan at the recently-concluded Bangalore Literature Festival, in a session titled *The Ooru Files: Crime in the City,* the trio spoke about their respective books and their (and their characters’) relationship with the city.

Sleuthing in a saree

For instance, ecologist and author Harini Nagendra’s *The Bangalore Detectives Club* series etches a semi-fictional history of the city, offering a peek into 1920s Bangalore (now Bengaluru). The novel revolves around the headstrong, saree-clad protagonist Kaveri, who moves to Bangalore to marry her doctor husband Ramu and commits to leading an unremarkable middle-class life in the city. Very soon, however, Kaveri faces a series of events that make her realise that with the right skills and knowing the right people, sleuthing can be done just as easily in a saree.

Harini says she drew inspiration from women in her own family, incorporating exceptional acts like swimming in a saree into her narrative. Kaveri’s social status becomes her investigative asset, “she had to be both traditional and progressive” to flow in and out of British society seamlessly. By reimagining pivotal historical moments like the arrival of the Prince of Wales, the author weaves a story of fact, fiction, and fascination.

Revenge, retribution, and the redistribution of justice lie at the core of Harish Vasudevan’s debut novel *Redemption*. Set in 2007, Bangalore, a city slowly getting attuned to its technological revolution, the book follows a middle-class family of three, exploring the obscure and unsaid power dynamics that dictate human fate.

The novel’s protagonist is Archana Gowda, a simple, god-fearing housewife who suddenly finds herself accused of her husband’s murder and must negotiate the harsh realities of the justice system. The novel, says Harish, probes the murky themes of justice.

“I think there is a line in all of us, where, if crossed, we may consider picking up a stone,” he says, adding that though the novel is a work of fiction, its protagonist is loosely based on revelations from those working with female inmates.

City on their minds

Unmana’s first book Chikkamma Tours Pvt Ltd, is a bibliomystery whose central character is Nilima, a north-eastern queer woman from Delhi. When Nilima’s “Bangalore dream” quickly unravels after a job offer falls through, she finds herself joining Chikkamma Tours Pvt Ltd, reluctantly becoming part of a trio with her boss Swetha (whom she harbours a crush on) and her irksome colleague Poorna. When the bookshop owner above their office is stabbed to death, the trio must solve the murder before an innocent person is wrongfully convicted.

Harish remarks that Unmana crafts a well-paced story filled with diverse, authentic characters set in a bustling metro.

“There is something about Bengaluru that opens its arms up to people from all around; I wanted my book to be a reflection of that experience”, interjects the author.

The discussion was also punctuated by book readings, which demonstrated how the crime genre can be a sophisticated lens for exploring social dynamics, personal transformations, and the intricate justice systems that shape human experiences. “We have all grown up with the classics from Agatha Christie to stories about Sherlock Holmes, it’s time our own authors joined that list,” concludes Harish.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 18, 1974

Urs’ Assurance to T. Nadu on more Kabini Water

Bangalore, Dec. 17: Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, Karnataka Chief Minister, is reported to have promised Mr. P. U. Shanmugham, Tamil Nadu PWD Minister, to-day that whatever possible would be done to release more water from Kabini storage to Tamil Nadu for irrigation purposes.

According to a spokesman of the State Government, a decision on the Tamil Nadu’s request will be taken in about a week’s time.

Indications were that Tamil Nadu’s request would be sympathetically considered by the Karnataka Government particularly in view of the situation created by the failure of rains in the Tamil Nadu region.

Taluk Board Poll: Preparations Reviewed

Bangalore, Dec. 17: As things stand to-day, the taluk board elections in the State (scheduled for February 1975) would be held as planned, said Mr. K. H. Patil, KPCC President, here today.

“How can I say what happens in future”, Mr. Patil asked back when pressmen questioned him on persistent reports of the possibility of the elections being postponed.

Mr. Patil was briefing pressmen at the end of a joint meeting of the executive of the PCC and of the Legislature Congress Party, which discussed this issue, and the various aspects connected with the party’s preparations, including the reports of the party committees on delimitation of taluk board constituencies.

Winning accolades Stills from *1924 - The Kakori Project*, one of the producers, Anshulika Kapoor (far right) and (below) writer director Prataya Saha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru-based independent filmmaker Prataya Saha talks about his ninth short film, 1924 - The Kakori Project, which had its international premiere on the closing night of the Big Apple Film Festival in New York

Short answer to long question

Shilpa Anandraj

Bengaluru-based independent filmmaker, Prataya Saha's ninth short film, *1924 - The Kakori Project*, had its international premiere on the closing night of the Big Apple Film Festival in New York on December 12.

"The Big Apple Film Festival is one of the premier film festivals in the US in the independent film circuit," says Prataya over call from Whitefiled. "They have a platform for shorts, feature films and screenplays. We are thrilled that *1924 - The Kakori Project* was selected for the screening at the festival. One of our producers, Anshulika Kapoor, is representing us in New York."

Many of Prataya's films have been screened at international film festivals and won awards. His *Just Another Day* (2021) won the Best Short film for against violence towards women in Turkey, *Mein Mehmood* (2022) won the Best Short Film at the Kolkata International Film Festival and the Best Cinematography award at the Jaipur International Film Festival.

The challenges for short film makers are numerous, Prataya says, believing film festivals are perfect platforms to showcase shorts. "Short films do not have theatrical releases. Even streaming services do not take shorts. We have limited avenues to showcase our work; the maximum we can do is upload on YouTube or Vimeo."

That is where festivals like the Big Apple Film Festival come in to fill the gap, Prataya says. "They are great launch pads for filmmakers like us, as we do not have a platform for shorts. It is in film festivals like this that we find a captive audience, who not only watch the film but also interact with us."

Prataya shares that *1924 - The Kakori Project* is also nominated for the Best Short film award.

Large platforms also open doors for distributors across the globe, Prataya says. "Festivals like this come as a light at the end of the tunnel and game changer for us."

Shorts are doing better today than they did five years ago. "Feature films now have cut down on their length from 140-minutes to 80 to 90 minutes. Even shows, which earlier had hour-long episodes have cut down to as little as 25 minutes. People's attention span has come down and in the future, shorts will get a chance to be monetised."

My endeavour is to choose stories that have not been picked by mainstream media and those that have a history.
PRATAYA SAHA
Independent filmmaker

Set against India's independence struggle, *1924 - The Kakori Project* explores the trauma of children in conflict, tackling moral dilemmas that still resonate today. The film, in Bengali and Hindi, is set in the winter of 1924 when a young man is recruited for a clandestine operation. He grapples with the moral complexities of the Indian Independence struggle, entwined with the haunting plight of children caught in conflict zones.

"In 1925, a group of nationalists overpowered a train in Kakori, near Lucknow," Prataya says. "They captured some of the money that the British were looting out of India. This led to an uproar and was a huge turning point in the Indian freedom struggle. Forty people were hanged for this."

The film, Prataya says, is a fictionalised account of this event. "The story is set a year before the Kakori incident, when the people were being recruited. The film explores the subtext of how children become a casualty in political conflicts."

Prataya says he is looking at expanding the short into a full-fledged feature film. "The short, screened at this festival, also becomes a potential pitch to interested investors and distributors."

India has a plethora of stories that are multicultural in nature, Prataya says. "It will take a filmmaker a lifetime to cover one percent of these stories. My endeavour is to choose stories that have not been picked by mainstream media and those that have a history and heritage."

Prataya wrote the screenplay of *1924 - The Kakori Project*, which was shot in Kolkata's Ghats. "That is where the revolutionaries held clandestine meetings. We specifically looked for authentic locations untouched by globalisation. Since we worked with a small budget and could not create a place that looked like the 1920s with VFX, we were determined to find actual locales that matched the past."

Produced by Poorva Bhat, Vijaykumar Mirchandani (executive producer), Manish Verma and Anshulika (associate producers), *1924 - The Kakori Project* will premiere at the Nepal Human Rights International Film Festival powered by the United Nations Development Program later this month.

All for love

Night to remember Bryan Adams in Bengaluru for his So Happy It Hurts India tour. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj

"18 till I die, gonna be 18 till I die...."

We were in queue to collect our wristbands at the Bryan Adams So Happy It Hurts Tour in Bengaluru and like us, others thronging the lines were singing along. Despite a four-hour headstart for a two-hour drive, we still arrived late for a show that did not begin on time; not just us – it seemed half of the city had just got there too.

We sallied through the usual checks for eatables, water and whatnot, courtesy the unforgettable music and lyrics from once upon a time wafting past the barricades. And then we were there, out in the open, milling about with a pretty mixed crowd. I honestly was expecting more of a salt-and-pepper headcount and was pleasantly surprised to see teens, tweens and even little children, dancing and swaying to the music.

Bryan Adams' Bengaluru stop was bang in the middle of his India tour and he had been performing back-to-back: he was in Mumbai the night before, after an appearance in Kolkata, Shillong and Gurugram, and was heading out to Hyderbad the next day.

Yet, you would have never believed it to see that 65-year-old belting out vocal runs and prancing around the stage. His energy was contagious and he had the crowd roaring in unison to his songs, right from the start.

As to be expected at a concert, there were placards with requests popping up all over the place – and not all of them were for his songs, including one for his guitar pick (one of the more reasonable asks). And he did oblige whenever he could.

In between songs, the artiste shared nuggets about his life and journey. Like how he wrote 'Straight From the Heart', perhaps one of his most popular numbers when he was 18, and how he was able to make music a career choice, thanks to his mother. He shared how his mother makes a cameo in the music video 'So Happy It Hurts' as does an "Indian girl in a sari".

Bryan Adams' energy was contagious and he had the crowd roaring in unison to his songs, right from the start.

He went on to say how every time he comes back to India (this was his sixth tour) he was seeing change, "and all of it good," though I wondered how many of us agreed with him on that.

Bryan interspersed his classics with his newer songs, holding his audience's attention – at the halfway mark, a couple of stragglers began making a beeline for the exit, but the opening bars of his next song, 'The Only Thing That Looks Good On Me' brought them back double quick.

His request for phone torches during his rendition of 'Shine A Light' was met with enthusiasm and he acknowledged how, "despite having played this song at numerous venues, it was only in Bangalore that the spotboys (from their perches up above) at the venue were also shining their torches as the song played."

Well, I suppose that was the only good thing to be said about the venue. Getting there was bad enough, leaving would have been a nightmare for those who got there early. Since we had left the car behind and walked 20 minutes to get to the venue, we were among the few who were not caught in the ensuing chaos.

So happy it hurt, alright.

Music down the ages

As part of their Christmas celebrations, popular playback singer Shaan, will be performing live at Bengaluru's Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield.

Known for hits such as 'Musu Musu Haasi Deu' from *Pyaar Mein Kabhi Kabhi,* 'Woh Ladki Hai Kahan' and 'Koi Kahe Kehta Rahe' from *Dil Chahta Hai,* and 'Ghanan Ghanan' from *Lagaan,* Shaan will create an electrifying atmosphere, by presenting some of his best-loved melodies, that are sure to have audiences singing along.

The artiste hails from a family where music was dominant – his grandfather Jahar Mukherjee is a popular lyricist and his father, Manas, was a music director. His sister Sagarika is also a singer.

Shaan began his career by singing jingles, going on to win awards for his album *Tanha Dil* and from thereon his career skyrocketed.

He has also performed live concerts abroad, and was the host of a popular music-based television show in India.

Shaan himself is a song writer and composer, besides being a singer and is known as the golden voice of India with a successful stint in the world of music for the past decade.

The concert in Bengaluru, says the singer, will be a celebration of music and a trip down memory lane.

On December 20, 7pm onwards. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Heart throb Singer Shaan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bridge over many waters

Indian Music Experience (IME) will host a special year-end concert that will feature the Surabhi Ensemble, a US-based world music band.

The Surabhi Ensemble which has won quite a few awards, is based out of Chicago and is known for its seamless blending of Carnatic ragas and rhythms, Spanish Flamenco, Middle Eastern Maqam, West African tama drumming and Mexican folk music paired with captivating classical and folk dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, Dabke from the Middle East and Flamenco.

According to a press release, this concert is a part of their Bridging Cultures Through Harmony Tour, which aims at spreading a message of peace and unity through genre-defying music."

The Surabhi Ensemble will perform on December 20, from 7pm onwards at the Indian Music Experience Museum.

Admission is free. Visit IME website for details.

CITYBEATS

Bring on the cheer

ONGOING
Toscano Restaurant & Wine Bar has begun the season's celebrations with a range of Christmas-themed cocktails and beverages. Enjoy Santa mulled wine, snowy sparkler, honey-lavender sangria and more, that can be teamed with turkey-centric dishes and other Christmas delicacies.
At Toscano Restaurant & Wine Bar, from 12.30pm onwards.

Winter bites

ONGOING
SOCIAL is presenting a winter menu which is a celebration of flavours and comfort dishes. From pop-corn soup and k-krispy lotus stems tossed in SOCIAL's signature SEXO sauce, to dirty thread chicken and mom Ramen, there is a lot to savour including a sizzling Christmas cake for dessert.
Available till January 1, 2025, from 9am to midnight across all SOCIAL outlets.

Jolly times

DECEMBER 21, 22
Bakeree and BLR Brewing Co., Bengaluru will have a Christmas bake sale. Their wide variety of bakes includes gooey cookies, custard-filled brioche donuts and sticky toffee date and carrot cake (a lightly spiced, moist date and carrot sponge) served with a warm toffee date pouring sauce.
Prices start from ₹149.
At BLR Brewing Co, Whitefield, 12pm onwards.

SC orders status quo till next hearing in Malankara Church dispute case

Court to hear the case in detail on January 29 and 30; while urging both the groups to maintain peace and harmony, it seeks details from Kerala government about the number of people and churches under Jacobite and Orthodox factions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered to maintain status quo in a dispute between the Jacobite and the Orthodox factions in the Malankara Church ahead of Christmas, while agreeing to hear the case in detail on two consecutive days during January 2025.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant decided to maintain the present state of affairs after both factions expressed, directly and indirectly, their difficulty in complying with a December 3 order.

On December 3, the Bench had directed the Jacobite faction to hand over the administration of six churches in Ernakulam and Palakkad districts to the Orthodox in compliance with the court's judgments and the 1934 constitution of the Church.

Senior advocate C.U. Singh, appearing for the Orthodox faction, said an order of status quo on Tuesday would amount to the court contravening its own order of December 3.

"We are aware of this. But we have to take care that no untoward incidents happen. We will also strengthen the hand of the administration so they will control the situation," Justice Kant said.

Meanwhile, the court directed the Kerala government to place on record the details of the Orthodox Christian population; the number and details of churches under the complete administrative control of either the Orthodox faction or the Jacobites; the list of these churches of which the management was in dispute; the current status of their administration; and the parish registers.

The court urged both groups to maintain peace and harmony. It asked the State to persuade the groups to keep the peace. "Status quo as it exists now should continue... Lives, property, law and order, peace are all very important factors of a society governed by the rule of law," Justice Kant said.

The court said the status quo would prevail till the next date of hearing on January 29 and 30.

Former CM's house to be converted into monument

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The house of former Chief Minister late S. Nijalingappa was handed over to the Chitradurga district administration on Monday for converting it into a monument.

Trustee of S. Nijalingappa Memorial Trust K.E.B. Shanmukhappa handed over the keys of Nijalingappa's residence at V.P. Extension in Chitradurga to Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh and Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy. After taking over the possession, the officials inspected the condition of the house.

Purchased last week

Mr. Venkatesh told pressmen later that as per the government's direction, the residence was purchased last week and restoration would be taken up soon.

"The plan is to complete the civil works and after taking up the matter with the government, further steps on converting the house into a monument will be initiated. Engineers have been asked to prepare estimates by assessing the condition and take up repairs," he said.

As per the estimate of the Public Works Department, the house was purchased at a price of ₹4,18,49,016 from Nijalingappa's legal heirs. "After the purchase, we still have ₹80 lakh, utilising which the civil works will be taken up," he said.

A view of S. Nijalingappa's house in Chitradurga.

Mr. Venkatesh said photographs, gifts, and articles used by Nijalingappa would be preserved with the help of experts and the house would be converted into a monument and museum.

Online investment racket unearthed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following a case of online investment fraud, the North Division cybercrime police busted an international racket and arrested a gang of 10 people, including unemployed engineering students and graduates working on a commission basis for the kingpin, operating from Dubai.

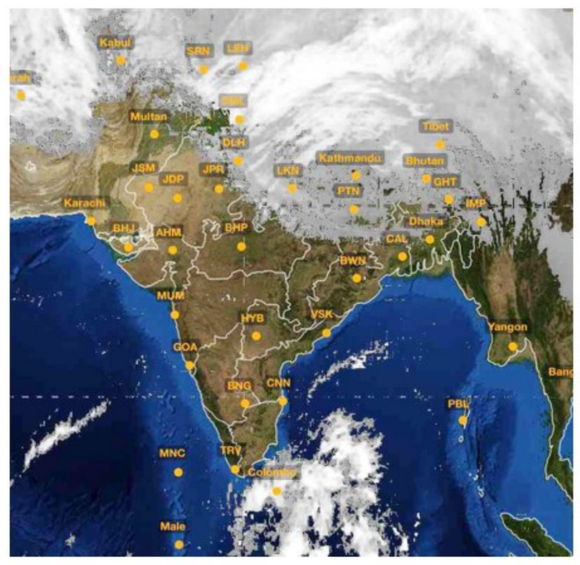
Based on the complaint of a person who was cheated of ₹88 lakh through online investment fraud, the police tracked down the accused and raided their offices in Thyagarajanagar and Sadashivanagar and recovered 51 mobiles phones, 480 SIM cards, 330 bank accounts, QR codes, 30 debit cards of different banks, and laptops from them.

The accused have been identified as Srinivasa Reddy, 43, Akash G.M., 27, Prakash, 43, Sunil Kumar, 43, Sai Prajwal, 38, Ravi Shankar, 24, Madhusudhan Reddy, 41, Suresh V, 43, Kishor Kumar, 29 and Obul Reddy, 29.

The police said the accused were hired online by the kingpin, offering them work-from-home jobs and assigning different roles on a commission basis. While some of the accused were tasked to get mule accounts, the others were instructed to facilitate transactions and ensure mobile phones and bank accounts where the money is transferred are active. The accused were offered ₹40,000 commission for every ₹1 crore transaction to an account, they said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Cold wave/severe cold wave conditions likely at many/isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh and Rajasthan

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.6	11.9	Kozhikode	—	32.9	23.2
Ahmedabad	—	29.2	11.8	Kurnool	—	32.5	16.4
Aizawl	—	—	12.8	Lucknow	—	26.8	8.3
Allahabad	—	26.4	8.0	Madurai	—	32.7	22.1
Bengaluru	—	28.3	15.5	Mangaluru	—	32.7	20.5
Bhopal	—	27.6	4.0	Mumbai	—	34.6	15.0
Bhubaneswar	—	29.7	13.6	Mysuru	—	—	13.4
Chandigarh	—	23.9	6.6	New Delhi	—	24.4	5.9
Chennai	—	27.2	24.5	Patna	—	25.1	12.5
Coimbatore	—	31.4	18.0	Port Blair	2	30.1	26.0
Dehradun	—	24.8	7.0	Puducherry	—	27.3	23.0
Gangtok	—	16.4	8.5	Pune	—	33.1	13.0
Goa	—	34.0	20.0	Raipur	—	28.6	11.8
Guwahati	—	26.5	11.4	Ranchi	—	24.8	9.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	14.0	Shillong	—	20.6	8.7
Hyderabad	—	29.6	11.9	Shimla	—	21.0	8.3
Imphal	—	24.2	3.9	Srinagar	—	9.9	-5.3
Jaipur	—	23.8	7.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	24.1
Kochi	—	31.6	24.6	Tiruchi	—	28.1	23.0
Kohima	—	15.0	5.6	Vijayawada	—	27.8	18.0
Kolkata	—	27.4	14.6	Visakhapatnam	—	26.6	21.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	44	39	214	119	
Bengaluru	6	15	50	162	115	
Chennai	18	42	37	141	114	
Delhi	22	146	171	472	456	
Hyderabad	8	121	52	142	148	
Kolkata	14	120	29	227	182	
Lucknow	3	36	48	323	305	
Mumbai	14	25	21	253	159	
Pune	—	179	72	313	204	
Visakhapatnam	15	90	36	114	115	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 433 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE
No: CMC/ Health Section/MRF/2024-25 Dated: 13.12.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

15th Finance and MPC Fund tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Class-1 Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in 1) Pre-Bid Meeting 24.12.2024 at 05.00 PM 2) Tender Last Date: 26.12.2024 TIME: 5.00 PM. 3) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 27.12.2024 TIME: 5.10 PM.4) Opening for Financial Bid will be on Date: 30.12.2024 TIME: 05:10 AM OPENING PLACE OF TENDER:CMC HOSAPETE. **INDENT No. DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT25590/CALL-3** Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 499.99 Lakh, EMD Rs. 7,50,000.00 any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer, Environmental Engineer, CMC Hosapete. **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC Hosapete.**

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2024-25/KSMCA/RO No/419

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayath Bidar
O/O THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (KVI), DEPT. OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE, ZILLA PANCHAYAT, Naubad, Bidar. 585402

No.ZPB/DDKVI/A1/TENDER/2024-25 Date: 12-12-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal only)

Deputy Director (kvi), Dept. of Industries & Commerce, Zilla Panchayat, Bidar in association with e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka invited tender from the reputed manufacturers/ Suppliers for supply of Sewing Machines, Barber & Cobbler tool kits item wise under two cover system for **Rs. 77.16 lakhs.** Last date for submission of tenders through on-line is **09-01-2025 up to 5:00pm.** Details can be obtained from e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. / The office of the Deputy Director (kvi), Dept. of Industries & Commerce, Zilla Panchayat, Naubad Bidar. 585402. (Ph: 08482-233143) (Mobile No: 9980026489)

Sd/- Deputy Director (kvi), Zilla Panchayat, Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/299/KSMC&A/2024-25

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No : KMF/ENGG/NHMPP-Packing Machine/1899/2024-25 Date: 17-12-2024

SHORT TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and eligible firms who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Milk Powder Packing Machine with Control System and related works to NHMPP - Ramanagara.	1 Job	80,000/-	2 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 18-12-2024 to 26-12-2024 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 26-12-2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 27-12-2024 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

'Allow foreign airlines access to Kannur airport'

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

A group from Kannur in Kerala, comprising hoteliers, tour operators and architects, sat in protest at Jantar Mantar to press for their demand to grant "point of call" (POC) status for Kannur airport, which would allow international airlines to provide direct flights to it.

The group said they met Union Minister Rammohan Naidu and presented their memorandum seeking POC status for Kannur airport.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-2/AE-2/Tender/ 2024-25/2681 Date:13.12.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in KPPP for the following works. (1) Description of works: **Construction of OT Room & Other Developmental works at Family Welfare Center (City MCH) in Old Hubli, Hubli-Daharwd City Corporation Limit.** Approx. Amount put to tender (Excluding GST): **Rs.160.24 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs.2.40 Lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **6 Months.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **31.12.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **01.01.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

GULBARGA UNIVERSITY, KALABURAGI
Office of Registrar, G.U.K
Jnana Ganga: Kalaburagi-585 106., Karnataka, India
Phone No.: 08472-263203, Fax 08472-263207

GUK/Exam-Store/241/Answer Sheet/2024-25/945 Date: 13.12.2024

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

Bidding Schedule : 1) Name of the purchaser : Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi, 2) Tender document no. : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 3) Name of the Item : Coding of Answer Booklet, Online Scanning, On Screen Evaluation of Answer Booklet, Decoding, marks list feeding in UUCMS, 4) Date of publishing E-Tender Document on E-Procurement Platform : 13-12-2024, 5) Pre-bid queries pre bid meeting : 27-12-2024, 6) Last date for uploading the filled tender document : **30-12-2024,** 7) Time and Date of opening of Technical Bid : **01-01-2025 10.30 am,** 8) Time and Date of opening of Financial Bid : **03-01-2025 10.30 am,** 9) EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) : Rs. 9,00,000/-, 10) Tender Estimate : **Rs. 3,50,00,000/-,** 11) Place of opening Technical and commercial Bids and address for communication : Registrar (Evaluation) Gulbarga University, Sedam Road, Jnana Ganga, Kalaburagi, Karnataka-585106, 12) Tender period : 03 Years,

Interested parties may download the tender from the website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tender should be through e-portal only. Tender processing fees as pre e-portal and EMD amount to be remitted through e-procurement mode.

Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)
Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/729/KSMC&A/2024-25

BENGALURU MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009. Ph: 080 22341230 / 35
Email: bmicapa@gmail.com

No. BMICAPA/CLU-01/47/2024-25/1374 Date: 17.12.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

[UNDER SEC 69(3) of The Karnataka Town & Country Planning ACT, 1961]

Smt. Roopamala H.S., Smt. Deepamala H.S. and Sri Dilip Kumar H.S. have applied to this Authority seeking to assign land use from **"Park and Open space"** to **"Residential"** use under Sec 69(3) of the KTCP Act, 1961, for land in Sy.No.: 13/2 Extent 0A-05G of Rachanamadu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk.

As per the approved Bengaluru-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority's Master plan the proposed land is earmarked for Park and Open space, The proposed land is surrounded by Residential developments.

Therefore in order to assign land use to Residential use, Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his / her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/AAA/3826/2024-25

Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Ltd.,
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KNNL. M.L.B.C.C.Division No.2.
Naviluteertha-591116 TQ. Saundatti.Dist Belagavi.
Dn. e-mail: eemlbcnth@gmail.com Ph: - 08330-224516

No.MLBCC-2/DB/4701-22-23-TSP/e-tender/2024-25/ Dated : 17-12-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Through K.P.P. Portal system only)
(Two cover system)

Electronic percentage tender through e-procurement platform is invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, MLBCC Division No.2, Naviluteertha, on behalf of M.D., KNNL Bangalore for taking up the following work from the Eligible contractors registered under KPWD The tenderers are required to apply in two cover system (as per KTTP act 2000)
(Work Indent Numbers. 1097)
Estimated amount Rs. 100.00 Lakhs.
1. Last date of receipt : 26-12-2024 up to 4.00 PM. 2. Cover –I (Technical Bid) will be opened on 27-12-2024 at 4.30 PM, 3. Cover – II (Financial Bid) will be opened on 30-12-2024 at 11.00 AM.

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-(P.V.Mullur.) Executive Engineer,
KNNL, MLBCC.Dn. no.2 Naviluteertha.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1319/KSMCA/2024-25

District Urban Development Cell, Ballari

No: DUDC/B/MAN/Phase-4/Building & Park/1/2024-25 Date:12.12.2024

"TENDER NOTIFICATION"

The Deputy commissioner, Ballari District Invites tenders in two cover system using standard tender documents from **Eligible** contractors for The **Chief Ministeres Amruth NAGAROTHANA (Municipality) Phase 04 P roject in City Municipal Council Siruguppa, Town Municipal Council Sandur & Kurugodu limits in Ballari District** details as below.
Name of the Works & Indent No: 01. Development of parks in ward N.s 13, 16, 17 & 24 in Siruguppa CityDMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT27686CALL-3. **Estimate Cost(Rs in Lakhs):** 81.16. **Amount put to tender(Rs in Lakhs):** 68.67. **EMD(in.Rs):** 1,38,500/-
02. Development of Maratha samaja Burial ground and Lakshmipura survey no 70 Burial Ground in sandur TMC LimitsDMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT16023/CALL-3. **Estimate Cost(Rs in Lakhs):** 61.63. **Amount put to tender(Rs in Lakhs):** 52.18. **EMD(in.Rs):** 1,04,500/-
03. Providing and installation of Highmast light at ward No. 05 & 06, Construcation community toilet in ward No. 06 And Construction of Modern library (H.M Kumaraswamt Layout) for the Handicapped at Kurugodu TownDMA/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT16560CALL-3. **Estimate Cost(Rs in Lakhs):** 38.36. **Amount put to tender(Rs in Lakhs):** 32.49. **EMD(in.Rs):** 65,000/-
Last date & time for tender queries / clarifications: **26.12.2024 at 17.30 Hrs.** Pre Bid Meeting : **18.12.2024 at 11.00 hrs.** Last date and time for receipt of tender technical bids: **30.12.2024 at 16.30 hrs.** Date & time for opening of (Technical bids): **31.12.2024 at 17:00 Hrs.** Date & time for opening of (Financial bids): **06.01.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.** Auto extension of tender schedule : **02 days**
Interested Contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender, Contractors can download the tender documents from the e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development cell Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/686/KSMCA/2024-25

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041

No. RO KA-32.0011.0/18/2024-CON-RO KA
Date: 17.12.2024

ई–निविदा सूचना / **e-Tender Notice**

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्ष के लिए ऑनलाइन नियमित निविदाएं 1) आरएच/ जीएस एमएनजीटी और एफएसडी के.आर.नगर में एचटीसी, 2) आरएस/एफएसडी बल्लारी में एचटीसी, 3) आरएच/जीएस बंगारपेट और एफएसडी के जीएफ में एचटीसी, 4) आरएच/ जीएस/एफएसडी नंजनगुड में एचटीसी, 5) आरएच/जीएस/एफएसडी उडुपी में एचटीसी को आमंत्रित किया गया है। बोली **08.01.2025 को दोपहर 2.00 बजे** के भीतर ऑनलाइन जमा की जानी है।
जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्ष के लिए ऑनलाइन नियमित निविदा 1) आरएच/जीएस/एफएसडी मैसूर से एफएसडी कुशालनगर तक आरटीसी आमंत्रित किया गया है। बोली **30.12.2024 को दोपहर 2.00 बजे** के भीतर ऑनलाइन जमा की जानी है। एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं।
पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।

Online Tenders for regular 1) HTC at RH/GS MNGT & FSD K.R. Nagar, 2) HTC at RS/FSD Ballari, 3) HTC at RH/GS Bangarpet & FSD KGF, 4) HTC at RH/GS/FSD Nanjangud, 5) HTC at RH/GS/ FSD Udupi for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM** on **08.01.2025**.
Online Tenders for regular 1) RTC from RH/GS/FSD Mysore to FSD Kushalnagar for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 30.12.2024**.
NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in**.

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (Karnataka)

Trade shocker

November's low tally scuppers expectations of goods exports recovery

This October's foreign trade numbers had offered a sliver of hope for India's generally weak export story over the past couple of years, as goods exports grew at a 28-month high pace of 17.2%. Any prospects of a sustained turnaround with better global demand for this Christmas season, have, however, come undone with November's trade estimates released on Monday. In a double whammy of sorts, not only did the value of outbound shipments sink to the lowest in a little over two years at just $32.1 billion but the import bill also hit a record high of $70 billion, rising 27% year-on-year which is the fastest uptick in more than two years as well. Relative to October, goods exports were 18.1% lower. Three of the last four months have now clocked record-breaking import bills, with $64.3 billion in August and $66.3 billion in October. As in August, November's import bill spike was led by gold imports that jumped 331.5% from last November to a whopping $14.9 billion. Overall gold imports are now up 49% this year, and while higher prices and seasonal spikes for the festive and wedding season explain some of the uptick, this warrants some examination, especially as exports of gems and jewellery are sputtering, including in the employment-intensive businesses such as diamond polishing and gold ornaments. Gems and jewellery exports are down 10.2% between April and November, while imports have widened over 30%, with November seeing a record high deficit of $14.4 billion in the segment.

The overall gap in merchandise trade also expanded to a fresh high of $37.8 billion in November, perhaps the first time that the deficit is higher than the export tally. Apart from precious metals, petroleum also played a key part in this widening, with exports halving to $3.7 billion while imports rose 7.9% to $16.1 billion. Officials have sought to downplay concerns by linking the export slump to lower oil prices, but the same should also hold true for imports. It may well be that the discount gains on Russian oil India had capitalised on to ramp up its exports, are fading, and domestic demand is stronger than before, but economists are a tad puzzled at this phenomenon of recent months. The Commerce Ministry top brass has often argued that rising import bills are not a worry because India is growing faster than the world, much of the imports are directly correlated to, or are inputs for exported goods, and non-oil exports that are rising should remain the focus. But oil and jewellery remain among India's top tradables, and policymakers must glean a better sense of the dynamics behind this tumult, even if they are unfazed by the expanding trade deficit.

More of the same

India and Sri Lanka need to go beyond stated positions to take ties forward

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's visit to India, also his first overseas trip in keeping with tradition, marks a continuity in India-Sri Lanka bilateral relations. The joint statement, after his meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, covered aspects similar to the one subsequent to the visit of his predecessor, Ranil Wickremesinghe, in 2023. Mr. Dissanayake's assurance that Sri Lanka will not permit its territory to be used in any manner inimical to India's security and regional stability, on the face of it, appears to be a reiteration of Colombo's long-standing position, but it was significant in view of a perception that Mr. Dissanayake's Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) is a Left-leaning pro-China party. India viewed his observation as one that could have a bearing on the clearance for Chinese ships visiting Sri Lanka in the light of the Wickremesinghe government's one-year moratorium (after India's concerns) on all "foreign research vessels" visits ending next month. In the last 10 years or so, the frequent presence of Chinese ships became the main irritant in bilateral ties. It remains to be seen how far the dispensation will be sensitive to India's concerns – the Wickremesinghe's regime took a stand about six months ago that it "cannot only block China".

That the statements of the two leaders or the joint statement did not touch upon the status of projects by the Adani Group was expected. The joint statement talked of India's commitment to help Sri Lanka in areas such as agriculture and the digital economy. The proposal to have a joint working group on agriculture is a welcome development. There was a mention of the proposed Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement – 14 rounds of negotiations have been held so far. On the fisheries dispute, the two sides apparently stuck to their stated positions but Colombo should help facilitate an early meeting between the fishermen's associations in both countries. More importantly, there seems to be a nuanced shift, going by the English version of Mr. Modi's statement at the joint press conference. There is no reference to the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, which envisages a measure of autonomy to Provincial Councils, despite Mr. Modi covering matters such as reconciliation, the need for Sri Lanka fulfilling its commitments towards "fully implementing" its Constitution and conducting Provincial Council polls. The JVP ran a virulent campaign against the Amendment, an outcome of the 1987 India-Sri Lanka Accord. As the coalition that Mr. Dissanayake heads secured a massive mandate across the country in the November 14 parliamentary election, he is in a comfortable position to show a new direction to ties with India. It is an opportunity for both countries to resolve their differences.

The legal gaps in India's unregulated AI surveillance

Shri Venkatesh
the Managing Partner at SKV Law Offices and has over a decade's experience in dispute resolution

Bharath Gangadharan
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Anuj Nakade
Content writer with SKV Law Offices, and a digital content creator

In 2019, the Indian government made headlines by announcing its intention to create the world's largest facial recognition system for policing. Over the next five years, this ambition has materialised with Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered surveillance systems being deployed across railway stations and the Delhi Police preparing to use AI for crime patrols. The latest plans include launching 50 AI-powered satellites, further intensifying India's surveillance infrastructure.

While technological integration in law enforcement is commendable, it raises substantial legal and constitutional concerns. The use of AI for surveillance has global parallels, often resulting in "dragnet surveillance", a term that refers to indiscriminate data collection beyond just suspects or criminals. As observed with Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) in the United States, even well-intended surveillance laws can result in overreach, infringing on citizens' rights.

This article explores the legal frameworks, gaps, and concerns surrounding AI surveillance in India and how they intersect with constitutional rights, particularly the right to privacy.

The Telangana Police data breach earlier this year revealed deep-rooted concerns about the data collection practices of Indian law enforcement agencies. According to reports, Hyderabad police had access to databases from social welfare schemes, including "Samagra Vedika", raising questions about the scope of data being collected and the lack of transparency regarding its use.

Lack of proportional safeguards

While data-driven governance offers solutions for public welfare and crime prevention, these practices must be measured against the individual's right to privacy, as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court of India, in *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* (2017), recognised privacy as a fundamental right, extending its scope to "informational privacy". The judgment emphasised that the era of "ubiquitous dataveillance" brings challenges that must be addressed through robust legal frameworks. However, the extent of surveillance infrastructure in India currently lacks proportional safeguards, leading to legitimate concerns about the implications of AI-driven data collection.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), passed in 2023, was meant to provide a framework for managing consent and ensuring accountability for data privacy in India. However, the law has been heavily criticised for broad exemptions that grant the government unchecked power to process personal data.

For instance, Section 7(g) of the DPDPA waives the need for consent when processing data for medical treatment during an epidemic. Section 7(i) further exempts the government from consent requirements for processing data related to employment, a particularly concerning clause given that the government is India's largest employer. These exemptions raise red flags about the potential for misuse, especially when applied to AI-powered surveillance technologies that operate on vast quantities of personal data.

Moreover, the DPDPA introduces obligations for citizens that could further exacerbate privacy concerns. Section 15(c) mandates that citizens not to suppress any material information when submitting personal data. This provision, while intended to ensure data accuracy, could lead to punitive measures for something as simple as an outdated address or technical error in data collection systems.

In short, the DPDPA places heightened scrutiny on individual data while offering the government broad leeway in its use and collection. Given the profound implications of AI technologies in processing sensitive personal information, the legal framework appears unbalanced, skewed in favour of state surveillance over individual rights.

The approach in the West

India is not alone in grappling with AI and its impact on civil liberties. The European Union (EU) has enacted regulations that could serve as a useful guide for India. The EU's Artificial Intelligence Act takes a risk-based approach to AI activities, categorising them into unacceptable, high, transparency, and minimal risk levels. Unacceptable risk activities, such as real-time remote biometric identification for law enforcement, are prohibited under EU law unless exceptions apply, such as searching for victims of serious crimes or responding to imminent threats. In stark contrast, India has begun deploying AI-powered facial recognition technology and CCTV surveillance in public spaces with little to no legislative debate or risk assessment. For example, Delhi and Hyderabad have integrated AI into policing without any publicly available guidelines on how data is collected, processed, or stored, or how potential abuses of the technology will be prevented.

As of now, AI remains largely unregulated in India. In 2022, the government promised that AI technologies would be regulated under the upcoming Digital India Act, but draft legislation has yet to materialise. This regulatory void leaves citizens vulnerable to the risks associated with AI-powered surveillance, including the infringement of privacy, discrimination, and data breaches.

Countries such as the United States and members of the European Union have already begun to legislate on the use of AI in public systems, with clear categorisations and restrictions for technologies that could pose a significant threat to civil liberties. The absence of a similar legal framework in India is troubling, especially given the government's ambitious plans to expand surveillance capabilities.

At its core, the debate over AI surveillance in India touches on fundamental constitutional questions. The right to privacy, as enshrined in Article 21, and the principle of proportionality, as outlined in the Puttaswamy judgment, demand that any intrusion into personal data be backed by law, pursue legitimate aims, and be proportionate to the goal pursued. However, the existing surveillance framework, bolstered by AI technologies, appears to stretch these principles to their limits.

Address the impact on civil liberties

It is not the use of AI in governance itself that is problematic, but rather its unchecked application without sufficient safeguards. A comprehensive regulatory framework that addresses AI's implications for civil liberties is urgently needed.

It would help protect public interest in consonance with the 'Right to Privacy' if such a framework includes provisions for transparent data collection practices, where it is publicly disclosed, what data is being collected, for what purpose, and how long it will be stored. Furthermore, the framework must ensure consent gathering mechanisms have narrow and specific exemptions for processing data with independent and effective judicial oversight. This will not only ensure transparency in consent gathering but also safeguard the constitutionality of such applications of AI-based data processing. In this context, India could benefit from adopting a risk-based regulatory approach, such as the EU's, which categorises AI activities based on the risks they pose to citizens' rights.

India is at a crucial juncture in deploying AI-powered surveillance. While integrating advanced technologies in law enforcement and governance offers immense potential, it must be balanced against citizens' constitutional rights. Policy decisions that embed privacy measures into infrastructure before deployment, with inherent safeguards in surveillance protocols, are vital. Consent mechanisms, transparency reports, and judicial oversight at relevant stages of data collection and management can avoid costly retrofits and retraining.

Though the DPDP Act addresses some issues, criticisms persist, and the long-awaited DPDP Rules remain unnotified. To mitigate risks from AI-driven surveillance, regulating "high-risk activities" through restrictions on digital personal data processing and transparent auditor oversight of data sharing is crucial. A proactive regulatory approach will ensure AI serves public interest without compromising civil liberties.

There needs to be a comprehensive regulatory framework that addresses AI's implications for civil liberties

Stuck in the classroom — students, teachers, NEP 2020

Parag Waknis
Dean, International Affairs and Associate Professor of Economics at Ambedkar University Delhi

Indian students in Higher Education (HE) are spending considerably more time in the classroom than their European Union (EU) and North American counterparts. Yet, they remain at risk of being relatively undereducated. There are primarily two reasons: higher proportion of teaching time in course credits and higher number of courses a semester under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

A contrast and the academic impact

An average student in a university in the EU or North America takes approximately four courses a semester with a maximum of three hours of lectures a course a week. This brings the total classroom time to a maximum of 12 hours a week. On the other hand, Indian students enrolled in the new four-year undergraduate programmes in Indian universities must take five courses a semester with four hours of lectures a course a week. This amounts to 20 hours of classroom time a week. These extra eight hours in the classroom do not leave much time for essential academic activities outside the classroom such as self-study, reading, or working on assignments, most likely leading to exhaustion and reduced learning.

A casualty of this increased classroom time is the number of assessments that are actually feasible in a course. In the earlier version of the choice-based credit system in the three-year undergraduate programme, where students took only four courses a semester, there was relatively more scope for continuous assessment. Now, with increased classroom time, students find it difficult to work on anything more than two assessments a course. This could impact the diversity of assessments, privileging multiple choice questions-based assessments that are easily graded via phone apps over assessments such as a term paper or a reflective essay that requires more time and effort from students.

Thus, increased classroom time risks incentivising rote learning and perpetuating the school dynamics where teachers are owners of knowledge and students are passive recipients. At least at the university level, students need to be pushed to own their learning. This is possible only if they are allowed time to reflect, plan, and execute their learning, explore learning outside the classroom individually and with peers scaffolded by assignments such as reflective essays, group projects, and cross-disciplinary problem solving.

The subject of continuous assessment

Addressing this reduction in the number of possible assessments is important because NEP 2020 lays emphasis on continuous assessment. In this system, the final grade can be aggregated from three or four assessment components spread over the semester. Such a system provides an opportunity to design a mix of low and high stakes assessments, incentivising continuous effort and learning, rather than cramming up before one or two examinations. Continuous assessment allows considerable flexibility for faculty to tailor assessment frequency and type to meet the learning outcomes of their courses. It is also a way to receive continuous feedback for faculty to adjust teaching strategy and for the students to adjust self-study strategies.

The increased classroom time impacts the quality of teaching as well. The extra eight-hour a week in the classroom for Indian teachers eats into the time available for research, course revisions, development of new courses, and cross-disciplinary collaborations. This negatively affects the quality and currentness of teaching. The classroom time of two to three hours a course a week in the EU and North American universities, with a total teaching load of two to three courses a semester brings the average weekly classroom teaching load of a typical university teacher in these countries to nine hours. In contrast to this, an average Indian faculty is expected to teach 14-16 hours a week, with time spent in the classroom varying from eight-16 hours depending on how flexible the institutional administration is in interpreting University Grants Commission guidelines.

The centres of learning

Teaching a course as per the vision of the NEP 2020 includes designing the course, selection of reading materials, development and administration of assessments, as well as grading. This is in complete contrast to the earlier model where teachers were responsible mostly for classroom lectures with assessment and grading taken care of centrally by the affiliating university. The elite central universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, and the Indian Institutes of Management could be an exception to this with possibly fewer than eight hours a week in classroom teaching a faculty along with substantially higher resources. But it is important to note that the bulk of teaching and learning in India happens in public universities and colleges, and not in these elite institutions.

Thus, to realise the vision of the NEP 2020 fully, a serious reconsideration of the number of courses and classroom time a course in the new four-year undergraduate programmes across India is necessary. Doing so will improve the teaching and learning outcomes for Indian students putting them on a par with their global counterparts. It will also get students out of the habit of rote learning, improve their self-learning skills, and ensure their readiness for further higher-level educational pursuits.

Inputs by Devayani Tirthali, an educational researcher

Increased classroom time runs the risk of students becoming passive recipients, affecting the vision of the NEP 2020

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Business in Upper House

Eminent personalities and educationists in public life are among those Members who occupy the seats in the Rajya Sabha. But even the proceedings in this House are dismal. Of late, one is witness to uproarious scenes and frequent violations of constitutional values, so much so that its democratic functioning is flouted with ease and without compunction. It is time that the Members of the Upper House also realise that they are accountable and engage in constructive debate.

N. Visveswaran,
Chennai

Another angle

As a regular train traveller, I would like to raise another very visible, yet blatantly ignored, fallout of the electrification of certain railway lines: the mindless destruction of greenery that was the hallmark of certain stations (Editorial page, "The hidden cost of greenwashing the Indian Railways", December 17). With deep pain, I highlight the total desecration of the enchanting tree-lined railway stations on the Shoranur-Nilambur railway route in Kerala, in 2024, in the name of electrification. As a septuagenarian, whose mother hailed from a village near Cherukara railway station, I have always chosen to travel on this route quite regularly on my visits from the Himalayan Arunachal. All these stations had century-old trees (Several YouTube vloggers had showered praise on these scenic stations). But, in February 2024, I received the shock of my life to find the total destruction of every single tree on the platforms of the stations between Shoranur and Cherukara. I learnt that all this was for electrification. It was even more distressing to have this happen in a State that won worldwide appreciation for saving the Silent Valley forests in the 1970s. Such trees are national wealth but the Railway authorities or their mindless contractors think otherwise.

Sathyanarayanan Mundayoor,
Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh

Ustad Zakir Hussain

The reports (Inside pages, December 17), on tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, brought out almost every aspect of his great life. Readers must be reminded about how he composed music for the Malayalam classic, *Vanaprastham*.

V.J. Sreekumar,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The challenge of universal health coverage

Dyuti Sen

Public health professional and an International Health and Tropical Medicine graduate from the University of Oxford. (Through 'The Billion Press')

The ongoing national conversation on what India needs to do for universal health coverage (UHC) often misses the complexity of multiple health systems and the unique challenges they bring. Almost every health system type that is seen globally is present in different parts of India. Sometimes, more than one type can be seen within the same State.

Government expenditure (per capita) on healthcare, for example, varies significantly from State to State. Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu spend ₹3,829, ₹2,590, and ₹2,039, respectively, while Uttar Pradesh and Bihar spend only ₹951 and ₹701, respectively (National Health Accounts – Estimates for India 2019-20).

West Bengal, a predominantly rural State, has a low fertility rate at 1.64, but it also has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates (16%). This is very different from other States with low fertility, such as Kerala and Himachal Pradesh, where teenage pregnancy rates are 2.4% and 3.4%, respectively (National Family Health Survey-5, 2019-2021). A UHC plan for States must be developed considering these very different realities.

Not the solution

Government health expenditure in West Bengal, which was ₹1,346 per capita in 2019-20, is only about 61% of the estimated ₹2,205 (research-based and inflation-adjusted) required to offer UHC. This number compares with a similarly populated State such as Madhya Pradesh where government health expenditure is ₹1,249 per capita.

Growing government health expenditure is good but may not solve the problem. West Bengal's government health expenditure has been growing at 11% per annum over the last few years and, at this rate, could grow to fully meet the funds estimated to be required for UHC by 2030. However, the State's out-of-pocket expenditure was high at 67% in 2019-20 and had only reduced by 2-3% from the previous years (National Health Accounts – Estimates for India 2019-20). The story is no different in Andhra Pradesh, which saw a 3% increase in per capita government health expenditure in 2019-20 from the previous years, but had a high out-of-pocket expenditure of 64% (National Health Accounts – Estimates for India 2019-20).

A universal health coverage plan in India must be developed considering the very different realities in each State

Deeper challenges

Thus, increasing government health expenditure does not appear to be working to contain a key issue relating to the health burden on citizens. This suggests that there are deeper design challenges with the health system. Without addressing these, increased government expenditure on health may do little to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure rates.

The implications of this are significant. Out-of-pocket expenditure already accounts for a majority of health spending in most of the States. A paper published recently (Sangar et al. 2018) noted that out-of-pocket expenditure accounted for more than 50% of health spending not just in poor States such as Jharkhand, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh, but also in comparatively prosperous States such as Kerala and Punjab, which have strong healthcare systems.

In the case of West Bengal, high C-section rates even within the public sector strongly indicate that there is an adequate supply of public sector hospitals at which free care can be offered. This negates the need and relevance of the State's Swasthya Sathi scheme, which is intended to allow patients to seek care in private hospitals using the government's limited tax resources. It is designed to compensate for a deficiency in the supply of government hospitals.

On the other hand, that there is a significant share of adults with high blood sugar rates across West Bengal, relative to the rest of the country; and also relatively low rates of hypertension in the State suggests high rates of genetically inherited insulin insufficiency, which needs to be addressed with urgency in primary care settings. Similar trends are observed in Bihar and Gujarat, which also have high blood sugar levels and relatively lower hypertension rates, in contrast to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, where both conditions are prevalent. This necessitates tailored health system strategies and region-specific public health messaging to address the varying trends in non-communicable diseases across different areas.

Data also show that while there is an income gradient, even the very poor in West Bengal have high blood sugar rates. It is clear from the high blood sugar rates that the current, largely out-of-pocket expenditure-driven health system design cannot address this challenge and that a much more proactive approach needs to be taken at the primary care level. However, with a 58% shortfall in primary health centres and health and wellness centres, the primary healthcare system in the State faces challenges in meeting the healthcare needs of its population; this needs to be addressed urgently.

A mosaic of challenges

The data here illustrate how healthcare is an interconnected system that presents a complex mosaic of challenges and opportunities. These cannot be addressed by blanket solutions that are unmindful of the uniqueness of the local area health profile, and its deeper relations to history, culture, and ways of working. Thus, leverage points vary and blunt instruments or even throwing resources can have little impact and, in some cases, make the situation worse. A holistic approach is essential, integrating public health initiatives, regional policy adaptations, and climate resilience, to build a robust and equitable healthcare system.

Failing PDS beneficiaries in Odisha

Digitisation is not the panacea for making social policy effective

STATE OF PLAY

Subhankar Nayak

In November, three women died after consuming gruel made of mango kernel in Kandhamal district of Odisha. The tragedy has brought issues surrounding the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013, in the State into the limelight. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Odisha is facing criticism for stalling the public distribution system (PDS) on technical grounds, leading to deprivation among marginalised communities.

In 2001 too, 24 Adivasis lost their lives in Rayagada district due to the same reason. The fact that hunger deaths are re-emerging in Odisha after more than two decades is telling.

Mandipanka village in Kandhamal, where the recent tragedy took place, is dominated by the Kandha Adivasi community. The area is plagued by poverty and deprivation with limited welfare interventions. The inhabitants primarily depend on agriculture and forest produce to eke out a living. Many men from the village also migrate to other States for employment. During the monsoon, starting from July, as livelihood options come down, people in Mandipanka, as in other remote areas of Odisha with Adivasi populations, become dependent on the PDS apart from traditional food that is stockpiled during the summer months. Traditional food items, such as gruel made from mango kernel, are consumed by Adivasis in this region during times of acute food shortage. Sometimes, due to improper storage, food items that are preserved for months become toxic for consumption.

After the BJP government took charge in June, it decided to further digitise PDS. This included making e-KYC mandatory for PDS beneficiaries, which led to delays in distribution. The people of Mandipanka claimed that they had not received their PDS rice for three months. With no other life support system and out of hunger, some families began preparing gruel from mango kernels to eat with some stored fermented rice. Unfortunately, according to officials, the food was fungus-infected. Three women died while receiving treatment.

According to statements of Odisha ministers and the district administration, the victims are to blame for their food practices and improper storage. This is despite findings that acute hunger among the Adivasis in this region compels them to resort to substitute food such as mango kernels gruel.

It is also concerning that all those who had consumed the infected gruel were women. In rural belts, women often eat inferior food within the family, due to prevailing sociocultural factors; this affects nutrition. The absence of a focused policy intervention for women in this district is particularly concerning, as about 49% of women in the age group of 15-49 years in Kandhamal are anaemic. Strengthening the capacities of women self-help groups and community health cadres to improve public service delivery, especially in such marginalised areas, could go a long way in enhancing the agency of women in managing their nutrition.

Notably, Odisha was one of the early reformers of PDS. It brought in multiple measures to minimise leakage and expand coverage. However, distribution in the most remote areas remains a significant challenge. In the case of Mandipanka, beneficiaries had to travel up to 10 kilometres to collect their PDS rice and it took a tragedy for the administration to finally set up a PDS sub-centre near the village. Timely supply of PDS food items is critical in these regions where people depend on them as their primary source of nutrition. Furthermore, the policy decision mandating that phone numbers be linked with Aadhaar for accessing welfare measures is made with the assumption that all beneficiaries have mobile phones. Many remote areas such as Mandipanka do not even have cellular coverage.

The tragedy should serve as a cautionary lesson for policymakers while making changes to critical welfare policies, as temporary withdrawal of State welfare schemes can cost lives. The idea that digitisation is the panacea for making social policy effective is flawed. Further, we need to move beyond a one-size-fits-all policy approach in key service deliveries, such as PDS. Interventions in marginalised areas require tailored approaches and regular feedback from the ground.

Subhankar Nayak is a policy researcher. X: @subhankarnayak

China is world's largest debt collector

The country is majorly responsible for the rapid rise in external debt in many countries in the last 20 years

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Over 25% of the world's bilateral external debt was owed to China by the end of 2023, making the country the leading debt collector. Two decades ago, the country rarely lent money; Japan lent the highest amount, followed by Germany, France, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Further, over the last two decades, when China's external lending increased massively, the amount of bilateral external debt owed by countries surged exponentially too. In other words, China is majorly responsible for the rapid rise in external debt in many countries in the last 20 years.

Bilateral external debt is a country's debt to foreign governments. In this analysis, only bilateral debt is considered and not debt owed to agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and bondholders.

Chart 1 shows the bilateral external debt stocks owed to all countries and to China specifically over time. It also shows (in %) China's share in the total bilateral external debt stock owed. External debt stock is the debt owed by a country to non-residents repayable in currency, goods, or services. It is the sum of all public, publicly guaranteed, and private non-guaranteed long-term debt and short-term debt.

The external debt stock owed to all countries increased from $49.5 billion to $741.4 billion between 1973 and 2023. The external debt stock owed to China increased from $1 billion to $193.1 billion in the same period. In percentage terms, the share of debt owed to China remained around the 1% mark until 2003, surged to 16.6% by 2013, and to 26% by 2023.

Chart 2 shows the share of external debt stock owed to top lenders in the 1973 to 2023 period. By the end of 1973 and 1983, the U.S. was the top lender. The U.S. was later surpassed by Japan, which remained the top lender by the end of 1993, 2003, and 2013. External debt stock owed to the U.S. drastically reduced from 36% in 1973 to just 4% in 2023. Notably, by the end of 2023, the Netherlands was the third biggest lender after China and Japan.

Chart 3 shows the external debt owed by all countries to China in absolute terms and percentage terms. For instance, Pakistan owed $22 billion to China by the end of 2023, which is close to 60% of all the bilateral debt owed by the country. The farther a nation is to the right, the higher the share of its bilateral debt owed to China by 2023. The bigger the size of the bubble, the higher the debt owed to China in absolute terms.

Notably, many countries to which China loaned money were either in a financial crisis which then worsened or later descended into a financial crisis. For instance, Laos, one of the poorest nations in Asia, owed $6 billion to China in 2023, which was over 75% of its bilateral external debt. The nation's economic situation turned difficult with persistent high inflation, currency depreciation, and slow growth. In 2021, China opened a high-speed rail line with Laos as a part of its Belt and Road initiative.

Angola, the second largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, owed $17 billion to China, which was about 58% of its external debt. In fact, 16 sub-Saharan nations owe over 50% of their external debt to China. According to the *New York Times*, 15 of the 19 cobalt-producing mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo were owned or financed by Chinese firms. The nation owes 88% of its bilateral debt to China.

Sri Lanka, which owes $8 billion to China, about 50% of its bilateral debt, was struggling to repay its debt and handed over the major port of Hambantota to China in 2017.

Debt trap diplomacy?

The data for the charts was sourced from the International Debt Report 2024. The report was released recently by the World Bank.

In this analysis, only bilateral debt is considered and not debt owed to agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and bondholders. Bilateral external debt is a country's debt to foreign governments

Chart 1: Bilateral external debt owed to all countries and to China over time

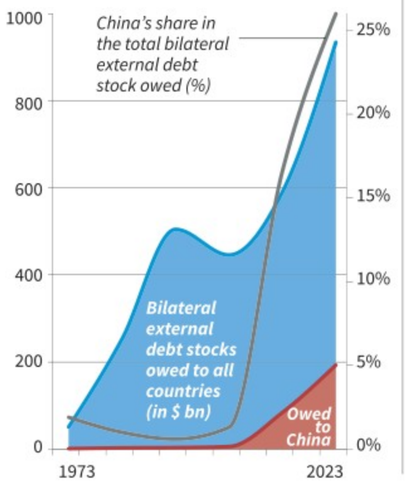


Chart 2: The chart shows the share of external debt stock owed to top lenders in the 1973 to 2023 period. The wider the stream, the higher the amount owed to the corresponding country in that year. Each stream represents a country

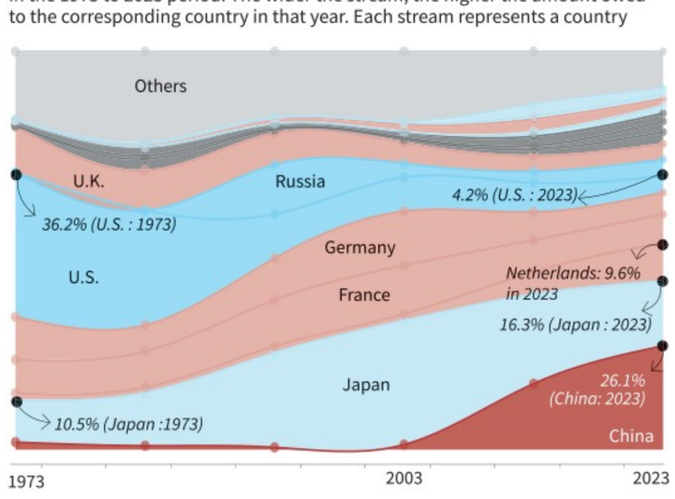
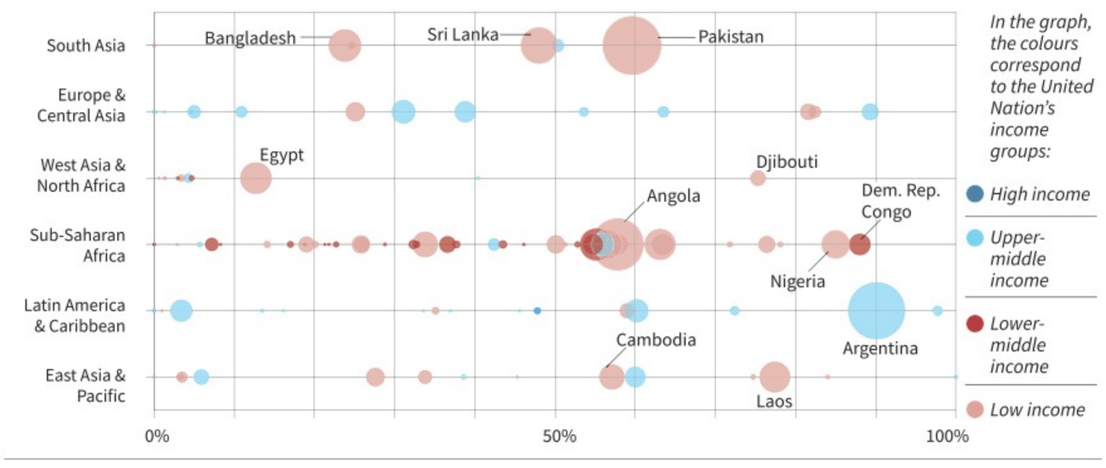


Chart 3: Chart shows the external debt owed by all countries to China in absolute terms and percentage terms. The farther a nation is to the right, the higher the share of its bilateral debt owed to China by 2023. The larger the bubble, the higher the debt owed to China in absolute terms.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 18, 1974

Indo-Bangla trade to be in free currency

New Delhi, Dec. 17: Trade transactions between India and Bangladesh will in future be in freely convertible currencies instead of rupee as at present.

This is one of the important features of the protocol to the existing trade agreement, finalised after a two-day meeting at the ministerial-level between the two countries.

The protocol was signed to-day by Mr. D.P. Chattopadhyaya, Commerce Minister, and Mr. K. Mushtaq Ahmed, Foreign Trade Minister of Bangladesh.

At one stage during the talks it appeared that no agreement would be possible, but the two sides sat till mid-night yesterday to reach agreement on the main issue of changing the basis of trade and payment from rupee to free currency.

After the signing ceremony, Mr. Chattopadhyaya told newsmen that experience that shown that trade in free currency would be more useful and beneficial in the long run than trade on rupee payment basis. This, he said, was clear from the example of Indo-Yugoslav trade which was changed into free currency a few years ago. Mr. Chattopadhyaya said that payment in free currency acted as a booster and gave fillip for developing trade.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 18, 1924

Autonomy for the provinces

The "Observers" support: A "New Empire" special cable from London on December 14 states that the "Observer" supports Lord Willingdon's proposals formulated at the recent meeting at the Royal Colonial Institute suggesting a wider devolution from Whitehall to Simla and Delhi and from the Central Government to the Provinces, no change at present in the Constitution of the Central Government but immediate advance towards responsible Government in the Provinces. The "Observer" thinks no more practical method than that proposed by Lord Willingdon has been suggested of simplifying the Indian Reforms without contracting them or of fixing responsibility in the new conditions.

From Page One

Bills on simultaneous polls rock Parliament

Home Minister Amit Shah informed the House that when the two Bills were being approved by the Union Cabinet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had favoured referring them to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for wider deliberations at every level.

"Detailed discussions can take place in the JPC. The report of the JPC will be approved by the Cabinet. Then again, there will be a discussion on this in the House," he said.

The Opposition leaders argued that the constitutional amendment would make the State legislatures "subordinate" to Parliament and, therefore, would undermine the mandate of the people of a State.

"The State government is not subordinate to the Central government or Parliament. The Bills take away the autonomy of the State Assembly. It is not an election reform but just the fulfilment of one gentleman's desire and dream," Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee said.

Making a powerful intervention, the Congress's deputy leader of the House, Gaurav Gogoi, argued that the Bills give "excessive powers" to the Election Commission, whose role and powers have been circumscribed in the Constitution.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader T.R. Baalu said, "The electors have the right to elect the government for five years and this right cannot be curtailed with simultaneous elections."

Mr. Baalu, Mr. Gogoi, and Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) member Supriya Sule favoured referring the Bills to a parliamentary committee, if they could not be withdrawn.

Samajwadi Party member Dharmendra Yadav said the move would take away the plurality and diversity of the States, while All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi claimed that the Bills would "finish off regional parties". "The Bills indirectly seek to introduce Presidential form of democracy," Mr. Owaisi said.

There was also a heated debate over Speaker Om Birla allowing members of the Treasury Benches – the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Shiv Sena (Shinde) – to speak on the Bills.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the Speaker had given a ruling to allow floor leaders of all parties to speak on the introduction of the Bills. "You alone do not represent Parliament, every political party has a representation here," Mr. Rijiju said.

The TDP and the Shiv Sena, both BJP allies, extended "unwavering support" for the Bills.

Congress MPs Manickam Tagore and Shashi Tharoor cited the division of votes to point out the political challenge for the government.

"My view is that this entire thing is a folly. In any case, the votes today have demonstrated that the BJP does not have the two-thirds majority required to pass a constitutional amendment," Mr. Tharoor said.

While a simple majority is required to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution, its passage requires two-thirds majority. So, of the 461 MPs present on Tuesday, the government would have required more than 307 MPs voting in its favour. "If there would have been a voting on these Bills today, the Bills would not have passed...," Mr. Tagore added.

This is the first time that the electronic voting system was used in the new Parliament.

Congress MP Manish Tewari speaks in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

SITs filed chargesheets in just 6% of 3,023 cases

The case was registered and transferred to the CBI in July 2023, more than two months after the incident took place as a video of the women being paraded naked went viral.

The trial is yet to begin as directions are awaited from the Supreme Court, a lawyer who is monitoring the cases said on condition of anonymity.

Six groups

Per the directions of the Supreme Court, the SITs were divided into six groups – one group for cases of murder and heinous crime; one for rape and sexual offences against women; and four for cases of arson, looting, and other crimes.

The districts of Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching, Bishnupur, Churachandpur, and Kangpokpi had six SITs each, while Thoubal and Tengnoupal had three each.

The report stated that the 42 SITs were investigating 126 cases of murder, nine cases of sexual crimes against women, and 2,888 cases of loot, arson, and other property crimes.

More than 4,500 weapons were looted from police armouries in Manipur after ethnic violence erupted between the tribal Kuki-Zo people and the majority Meitei community on May 3, 2023. Till now, around 1,800 weapons have been recovered or surrendered by civilians.

After India, Dissanayake to visit China

Minister Vijitha Herath indicates that the govt. will continue to seek support from both Delhi and Beijing; he says rebuilding the economy is biggest priority as he calls for more tourism; Colombo will issue gazette notification making visas free of charge for nationals of 39 countries including India

Suhasini Haidar
Meera Srinivasan
NEW DELHI/COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake at Mahabodhi Temple in Gaya on Tuesday. ANI

After his trip to India, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will visit China next month, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath said on Tuesday, adding that the newly elected government wants "win-win" ties with all countries.

A day after Mr. Dissanayake's talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where the President said he would ensure that Sri Lankan territory is not "used in any manner inimical to the security of India as well as towards regional stability", Mr. Herath reaffirmed the commitment.

On Tuesday, Mr. Dissanayake travelled to Bodh Gaya to offer prayers, and returned to Colombo.

Ties with N. Korea

"As a new government, we hope to have a good relationship with China also, as well as India. And also with other countries like U.S., Russia, Cuba and North Korea...," Mr. Herath told an audience at an event organised by the India Foundation in Delhi.

"After this first visit to India, our next visit is to China next month," he said, indicating that the government would continue to seek support from both Delhi and Beijing, even as Mr. Dissanayake has clearly prioritised the Indian visit first.

On a visit to Jaffna last month, Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong said that China "welcomed" Mr. Dissanayake's visit to India as it was a "close neighbour" to Sri Lanka, adding that the visit by Mr. Dissanayake to Beijing would "enhance [China-Lanka] traditional friendship, promote bilateral economic cooperation, and bring more benefits to our peoples".

Responding to questions in Delhi, Mr. Herath said that Sri Lanka's first priority was to shore up its economic situation, restructure its debt package with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, as well as push for new tourism inflows.

Reviving tourism

Mr. Herath, who is also the Minister of Tourism, explained that after hitting a peak of 2.5 million tourists in 2018, the Sri Lankan tourism industry had been dealt three successive blows – the Easter Sunday terror attacks in 2019, COVID pandemic in 2020-21, and the economic crisis and debt default in 2022.

He announced that the Dissanayake government would soon issue a gazette notification making visas free of charge for nationals of 39 countries including India, and called for India to reciprocate the measure, and to increase tourism in both countries.

Foreign vessels

Responding to questions at the event, Mr. Herath gave no clear indication on whether Sri Lanka would continue to allow foreign research vessels, particularly Chinese ships, to berth at Sri Lankan ports after a year's moratorium on all such research expeditions ends on December 31. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister said instead that there was a need to build a "national policy" on the issue, and that a committee had been set up to look into it. India has consistently objected to Chinese vessels on research visits to Sri Lankan ports, as it says the ships have a "dual purpose" to also collect sensitive, strategic data in the Indian Ocean, a charge Beijing has denied.

After the Modi-Dissanayake talks on Monday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that India had offered its own capacities and training to Sri Lanka to circumvent the need for other foreign vessels.

To a question from *The Hindu* after the event, Mr. Herath said that the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna government would "consider" the situation of Sri Lankan refugees living in India. Many of the refugees fled violence in the 1980s, are ineligible for citizenship in India and are unsure of their future in Sri Lanka. He said that while there were procedures in place for their repatriation, not all of them wish to return to the island nation.

According to the India-based Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation, there are approximately 57,000 displaced persons living in 104 camps in Tamil Nadu, while about 34,000 others are settled in various cities in the State, outside the camps.

Doval in Beijing today to attend India-China Special Representatives' talks

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

Ajit Doval

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval arrived here on Tuesday to take part in the India-China Special Representatives' talks to be held on Wednesday aimed at restoring the bilateral ties stalled for over four years due to the military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Mr. Doval will hold the 23rd round of the talks with his Chinese counterpart and Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, and is expected to discuss a range of issues to rebuild the bilateral ties following the October 21 agreement of disengagement and patrolling in eastern Ladakh between the two countries.

Ahead of crucial talks, China on Tuesday said that it is ready to honour commitments based on the common understandings reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping during their meeting at Kazan in Russia on the sidelines of the BRICS summit on October 24.

"China stands ready to work with India to deliver on important common understandings reached between our two leaders, enhance mutual trust and confidence through dialogue and communication, honour our commitments and promote our bilateral relations to go back to the sound and steady growth," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing when asked about SR talks.

On Monday, the External Affairs Ministry said, "The two SRs will discuss the management of peace and tranquillity in the border areas and explore a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question."

SC Collegium meets Justice Yadav over VHP remarks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday met Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court whose reported comments at a VHP event triggered Opposition MPs to move an impeachment motion in the Rajya Sabha.

The meeting may have been an opportunity for Justice Yadav to interact with the collegium about the media reports which quoted his alleged comments at the event.

The court issued a statement on December 10 that it had taken note of the news reports about the communally charged comments made by Justice Yadav at the VHP event on December 8.

Report flags India's violation of rights of Rohingya detainees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Left out: J&K police personnel conduct a search at a Rohingya settlement in Jammu.

A new study on the condition of Rohingya refugee detainees in India, conducted by the Azadi Project, a U.S.-registered non-profit, and Refugees International, an American non-profit that advocates for displaced people, has flagged "gross violations of constitutional and human rights" and "a failure by India to adhere to its commitments to international human rights treaties."

The study, based on conversations with refugee detainees in India, their families and lawyers, and a visit to a detention centre, found that "most Rohingya refugees are detained even after they have served their sentences". In India, there are about 22,500 Rohingya refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UNHCR estimates that there are 676 Rohingya in immigration detention across India, of which "608 have no ongoing court cases or sentences pending". About 50% of the detainees are women and children.

The report highlights that "very limited access to legal aid and to international institutions like the UNHCR has meant many Rohingya refugees have been arbitrarily detained for over a decade [with no criminal charges] and with no end in sight." And such detainees included "pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers, children, differently-abled people, and older people."

Children in these detention centres had no access to schooling and "older people with age-related mobility issues are left at the mercy of fellow detainees for food and toilet access."

The report also flags chronic hunger, unpalatable food, poor nutrition, poor sanitation, and lack of ventilation leading to severe mental and physical ailments, including temporary paralysis. It details how men and women were segregated, spouses were not allowed time together, and older children were forcibly separated from their parents in violation of India's model detention code, which states that "families should not be separated".

The report recommends that "rather than revictimising a population that has survived genocide," the Indian government should "provide dignified refuge, starting with immediately releasing the most vulnerable Rohingya detainees and ending the arbitrary detention of more Rohingya."

It states that over the longer term, "India should clarify the legal status of Rohingya, revise the Foreigners Act of 1946, and ensure that its polices toward refugees are in line with international standards."

Starlink devices seized in Manipur; Musk denies report

Vijaita Singh
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

In a first, Starlink devices were seized in Imphal East on December 13 during a search by security forces.

The Starlink satellite antenna and router were abandoned by armed miscreants when the security forces conducted searches in the Keirao Khunou area, a police official said.

The device had "RPF/PLA" scribbled on it. The abbreviation stands for Peoples' Liberation Army and its political wing, the Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF), a Meitei extremist group banned by the Union Home Ministry. It operates from Myanmar. The group advocates secession of Manipur.

The recovery has sent alarm bells among the security agencies as the equipment which provides satellite-based high-speed Internet circumventing the Indian network has for the first time been found in the State affected by ethnic violence since May 2023.

After the pictures of the seized equipment went viral, SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk said in a post on X: "This is false. Starlink satellite beams are turned off over India." SpaceX beams were "never on" for India, Mr. Musk said in a subsequent post.

Earlier, on November 23, the Andaman and Nicobar police and the Coast Guard apprehended six alleged smugglers from Myanmar who used a Starlink device to navigate the sea while transporting 6,000 kg of methamphetamine, estimated at ₹36,000 crore, in a fishing trawler.

A defence source said that the device has been handed over to the police. A government source said it could not be said conclusively if the device was used for communication, and investigations were under way.

Webinar on excelling in UPSC interview to be held on Dec. 22

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A webinar will be organised on Sunday by Fortune IAS Academy in collaboration with *The Hindu EducationPlus* to help Civil Services Examination aspirants clear the interview.

The "UPSC Interview - Tips from Experts" webinar, which will start at 10.30 a.m., will bring experts and accomplished individuals in the civil services domain to discuss interview skills and will help guide candidates on excelling in this crucial stage.

The webinar panel will comprise D.P. Agrawal, former UPSC Chairman, P.K. Sidharth Ramkumar, IAS officer trainee who got the fourth rank in the 2024 Civil Services Examination, and Kiran P.B., IPS Officer and national interview topper of 2022.

The session will be moderated by Soma Basu, Senior Deputy Editor at *The Hindu*.

The webinar is specifically designed for candidates who have cleared the Civil Services (Main) Examination and are preparing for the interview.

It will focus on key areas such as understanding the mindset of the interview panel, enhancing communication skills, body language, and approaching situation-based questions with clarity and confidence.

Those interested can register through https://newsth.live/FIASE or scan the QR code.

APPEAL

I am Kanniappan aged 47 years old is advised to undergo Complex Risk Open Heart Surgery at The Madras Medical Mission,Chennai.The total expenditure is Rs.10,00,000/-. I work as a driver, and I cannot afford this huge cost. Please help me to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027.**
E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Kanniappan

BJP may send notices to MPs absent during LS voting

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday indicated that it would ask several of its Lok Sabha members why they were absent when voting for the introduction of the simultaneous election Bills was under way in the House.

Party sources, however, said a few Union Ministers and some MPs had official engagements. After a three-line whip had been issued ahead of the introduction of the Bills, they had informed the party floor managers that they would be absent.

While a Bill's introduction require only a simple majority, a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting is required to ensure passage when the Bills are tabled after a Joint Parliamentary Committee goes into it.

As expected, when the Opposition demanded a division on the introduction of the Bills, 269 voted in its favour and 198 opposed it.

Senior BJP leaders are now looking into the absence of its MPs at the time of voting, sources said.

This is not the first time that MPs have gone missing before voting on Bills. In the past, absenteeism had been an issue, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pulled up MPs at a customary meeting of the parliamentary party during sessions.

Cong. viewed Constitution as a private fiefdom: Shah

Home Minister launches an all-out attack on the Congress, while speaking at the conclusion of the 31-hour debate on the 'Glorious journey of 75-years of the Constitution of India' in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Volley of charges: Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Comparing and contrasting the Constitution amendments brought by the governments led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and those steered by the Congress, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that the Congress had altered fundamental constitutional provisions for political gain, while the BJP focused on empowering citizens.

Mr. Shah was replying to the 31-hour debate on "Glorious journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India" in the Upper House in which 80 members participated.

Calling the Congress "anti-reservation", the Home Minister said the only reason the party wanted an increase in the 50% ceiling was to provide reservation on religious lines.

The Minister accused the Congress of "finding fault" with EVMs after losing elections. Mr. Shah flayed the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for his remarks on V.D. Savarkar.

Accusing the Opposition of peddling a wrong narrative targeting electoral gains during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Shah said, "The 54-year-old leader who calls himself 'yuva' keeps roaming around with the Constitution claiming that we would change the Constitution. I want to tell that the provision to amend the Constitution is with the Constitution."

The Constitution is not an immutable document, and Article 368 enables bringing in amendments. "BJP has ruled for 16 years, and we made 22 amendments to the Constitution. Congress ruled for 55 years and made 77 changes," Mr. Shah said. He listed out four amendments brought by governments led by each of the two parties.

"The First Amendment was made on June 18, 1951. After the formation of the Constitution, Congress did not have enough patience even to wait for the Lok Sabha elections. Article 19A was added to curtail the freedom of speech and Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister at that time," Mr. Shah said. Next, he listed the 24th Amendment by the Indira Gandhi government. This, Mr. Shah said, was to restrict the fundamental rights of the citizens.

In comparison, he listed out amendments brought by the Narendra Modi government to introduce the GST, granting constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections in education and government jobs, and restoring the power of State governments to identify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

"The Congress considered the Constitution a private fiefdom of one family and deceived Parliament," Mr. Shah said. He spent several minutes giving an account of the welfare schemes of the BJP government in the previous two terms.

The Home Minister said the Congress repeatedly blocked efforts to bring in reservation for Other Backward Classes. "Twice under the Congress governments, reservation was extended on religious lines. This is unconstitutional," Mr. Shah said to loud protests from the Opposition benches.

The Congress emphatically opposed Mr. Shah's comments, with party's chief whip Jairam Ramesh intervening saying that the Congress has never extended reservation on religious lines.

Mr. Shah said the fabric of the Constitution is "secular" and it therefore supported a "Common Civil Code".

"Why did the Uniform Civil Code not come? It didn't come because first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru brought Muslim Personal Law. I want to ask Congress, in a secular country shouldn't there be one law for all religions?" He said that all BJP-led State governments will bring the UCC on the lines of the law cleared by Uttarakhand Assembly.

Stop blaming Nehru, focus on addressing present problems, says Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rapid fire: Mallikarjun Kharge, Jairam Ramesh and other leaders during the Constitution debate in the House on Tuesday. PTI

The Opposition in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday targeted the Centre over violations of constitutional principles in the past 10 years while participating in the debate on the 75 years of the Constitution.

They urged the Narendra Modi government to stop blaming Jawaharlal Nehru and focus on addressing the present problems of people.

Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain said the BJP members were worried about adding Socialism in the Preamble to the Constitution because they are against an equal society.

He said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman spoke in detail about socialism, and said the BJP did not accept the concept of socialistic pattern of society. He added that the demand to remove socialism from the Preamble comes out of a "*Manuvadi*" mindset.

He added that the Prime Minister keeps talking about "zero tolerance against corruption", but did not constitute any probe into the Rafale scam and failed to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Adani issue and the electoral bonds issue.

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien said that the Constitution was more than a book in the library, it was a living and breathing document of the streets. "See your arrogance on a day when we are debating the Constitution of India, your hubris makes you bring a Bill on Constitution at 12 noon," Mr. O'Brien said. The Opposition, he said, will not allow Parliament to be reduced to an RSS *shakha* (branch).

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said if the BJP had succeeded in getting 400-plus seats in the election, Parliament would have been debating on changes to be made to it.

John Brittas of the CPI (M) asked the Centre to form a Nehru Ministry to put the entire blame of administrative failure on the first Prime Minister.

RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha said Jawaharlal Nehru will remain as a symbol of parliamentary democracy against authoritarianism despite the BJP's attempts to malign him.

Shah should apologise for remarks on Ambedkar: Cong.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress accused Home Minister Amit Shah of harbouring hatred for Babasaheb Ambedkar and demanded that he apologise for speaking against the framer of the Constitution. Mr. Shah had earlier criticised Congress for repeatedly invoking Dr. Ambedkar, saying had they remembered God so many times they could have attained heaven for seven lives.

MGNREGS wages do not match rising cost of living: House panel

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel has made a strong case for increasing wages of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers, finding the current payment not in "consonance with the rising cost of living".

The committee tabled its report on Tuesday in both Houses of Parliament after a study of the wages paid under the scheme since 2008, and urged the government to link it with an index commensurate with national inflation.

The Rural Development Ministry, in its submission to the panel, said people took up MGNREGS works as a "last resort" and fallback option. But the panel noted that wages of such "nominal nature", along with delayed payment, "only discourage them [workers] and propel them to migrate and seek work in areas giving better remuneration".

In the financial year 2024-25, the average MGNREGS wage increased across India by ₹28 a day. In absolute terms, Haryana pays the maximum daily wage of ₹374. Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland pays the lowest of ₹234.

The panel noted with dismay that since the inception of the MGNREGS, the base rate for fixation of wages has been unrevised. The Government of India notifies the wage rate using the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour, and by keeping the wage rates thus obtained on April 1, 2019 or ₹100, whichever is more, as the base for indexation for the States.

Committee recommends statutory MSP, says it can help end suicides by farmers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Echoing the long-standing demand of farmers' organisations, the Standing Committee of Parliament on Agriculture, headed by Congress leader and former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, has recommended legally guaranteed minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

The panel, in a report tabled in Parliament on Tuesday, said such a policy step will address the issue of farmers' suicides. The panel asked the Centre to increase the amount given to farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme to ₹12,000 a year from the ₹6,000 given at present. Such seasonal incentives may be extended to tenant farmers and farm labourers, it said.

The panel asked the Centre to increase the amount given to farmers to ₹12,000 a year from ₹6,000 given at present

The panel noted that the MSP remains a focal point in the dialogue surrounding agricultural reform and farmers' welfare.

"Implementing a legally binding MSP in India is essential not only for safeguarding farmers' livelihoods but also for promoting rural economic growth and enhancing national food security. The benefits and advantages of implementation of MSP as legal guarantee far outweigh its challenges," the panel said in its report.

The panel said legalised MSP would stimulate economic activity in the farming areas, benefiting local businesses and economies. "With assured income through MSP, farmers are more likely to invest in their agricultural practices, leading to increased productivity and sustainability in farming. This investment can also contribute to long-term food security for the nation," the report said.

"Consistent income allows farmers to plan better and maintain production without the fear of market fluctuations undermining their efforts," the panel said, recommending the Centre to declare a road map for implementation of MSP as a legal guarantee at the earliest.

Predicting that such a measure will be a game changer, the panel said a legally binding MSP system could play a crucial role in reducing farmer suicides in India by providing financial stability, protecting against market volatility, alleviating debt burdens, and improving overall mental health among farmers.

A deal done in an unseemly haste

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
NEW DELHI/SINGAPORE

The approach from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) on September 15, 2021 came out of the blue. The federal agency wanted to know if Andhra Pradesh would like to sign India's largest renewables contract.

Just a day later, the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Cabinet at the time gave the deal its preliminary approval, according to Cabinet records seen by *Reuters*.

By November 11, the State government had secured the nod from the energy regulator. On December 1, State authorities signed a procurement agreement with SECI for the deal, which could eventually be worth over $490 million annually, with 97% of that amount going to Adani Green, the supplier of solar power.

The rapid 57-day timeline for the 7,000-megawatt deal was unusually fast, according to experts.

Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

The solar deal is now under scrutiny by U.S. prosecutors, who indicted Gautam Adani and seven other executives in November for alleged involvement in a bribery and securities fraud scheme involving several States.

Adani Green did not respond to *Reuters*' questions about the alleged corruption nor the speed of the approval process.

However, the office of Mr. Reddy, who was not named in the U.S. indictment, referred *Reuters* to a November 28 statement in which he denied being bribed and justified the deal on grounds it provided free power to farmers.

For most of September 15, 2021 then-Energy Minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy was unaware of any potential solar deal, he told *Reuters*. But late that night, he received a call from a person in his office, whom he did not identify, about a proposal that required his signature for discussion in Cabinet the next day, he said.

Mr. Srinivasa Reddy said he signed off after being assured by a senior official at his department, whom he did not identify, that the contracting party was SECI. He said he had "no idea the supplier was Adani".

The next day, the Cabinet approved the deal "in principle," according to minutes from the Cabinet meeting, allowing the regulatory process to be fast-tracked. On October 21, the Andhra Pradesh Power Coordination Committee – which had been tasked with studying the deal after the preliminary approval – filed a report recommending the deal.

Seven days later, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet officially committed to procuring 7,000 megawatts from SECI.

In doing so, it overrode advice from officials at the Finance and Energy departments that the contract did not represent good value.

On October 28 – the same day as the Cabinet meeting that approved the deal but before the green-light was given – the Finance Department made a submission to the Cabinet stating there was an industry trend of falling solar prices and that future agreements would likely be cheaper, according to Cabinet minutes.

The Treasury also questioned the duration of the 25-year contract, especially since supply was scheduled to start only in 2024, according to the minutes.

The records of the Cabinet deliberations do not document any discussion about the Finance and Energy departments' concerns beyond a statement in the minutes that the Cabinet was "duly overruling the finance remark".

Andhra Pradesh will pay ₹2.49 per kWh when the solar power comes online, according to the deal.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
PHONE NO. 0145-2624748 Email-aceregionajmer@gmail.com
No. F.()/Ar.MP/2024-2025/12408110 Dated : 13/12/2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS
Bids for the Retrofitting work for providing water supply through FHTCs in 411 Main Habitations & 418 Other Habitations of Sub Divisions Peeplu, Todaraisingh & Malpura. (Dist. Tonk) under Jal Jeevan Mission with Operation and Maintenance for Ten (10) Years After Defect Liability Period of One (1) Year. (NIT No. 03/2024-25 ; Estimated Cost Rs. 275.08 Crores) are invited from interested bidders up to 14.01.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN No. PHE2425WLOB07055
NIB No. PHE2425A3322
(Ram Chandra Rar)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED, Region, Ajmer
DIPR/C/13029/2024

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Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002
Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL- ENGAGEMENT OF CERT IN EMPANELLED AUDITOR FOR CONDUCTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT
BID NO: GEM/2024/B/5654886 DATED: 26.11.2024
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF X86 SERVERS
BID NO: GEM/2024/B/5658082 DATED: 27.11.2024
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL- SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, INTEGRATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ASSET AND LIABILITY MANAGEMENT (ALM) AND INTEREST RATE RISK IN BANKING BOOK (IRRBB)
BID NO: GEM/2024/B/5675914 DATED: 07.12.2024
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL- SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MIGRATION OF CISCO CORE NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE BANK'S NEW DC
BID NO: GEM/2024/B/5700562 DATED: 12.12.2024
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

राजस्थान युवा बोर्ड
(युवा मामले एवं खेल विभाग, राजस्थान सरकार)
सवाई मानसिंह स्टेडियम, प्रथम तल, जयपुर टेलीफैक्स 0141–2741489
क्रमांक: प.1(19)रायुबो / 2024 / 12469396 जयपुर, दिनांक: 16.12.2024
अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/2024–25
राजस्थान युवा बोर्ड द्वारा पूर्व में जारी अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा संख्या 02 / 2024–25 को निरस्त किया जाकर राज्य स्तरीय राजस्थान युवा महोत्सव, जयपुर के सफल आयोजन हेतु दक्ष, प्रतिष्ठित व अनुभवी फर्मो / संस्था / कम्पनी से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 03 / 2024–25 दिनांक 26.12.2024 को दोपहर 1.00 बजे तक आंमत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित पूर्ण विवरण राजस्थान युवा बोर्ड की वेबसाइट www.youthboard.rajasthan.gov.in एवं लोक उपापन पार्टल http://sppp.raj.nic.in व eprocurement portal http://eproc.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
NIB Code RYB2425A0003
UBN- RYB2425SLOB00003
राज.संवाद / सी / 24 / 9227 सदस्य सचिव

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division,
9th Floor, P.U.Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
No.:EE/SN/TEND/18/2024-25 Date:17.12.2024
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through KPP Portal only) (Two Cover System)
The Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Security Guards to BBMP Schools and Colleges of East Zone on Outsourced basis. Approx. Value of work: **Rs. 479.99 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 7,19,987/-**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal **from 24.12.2024 onwards. 2)** Pre-bid meeting : **27.12.2024 at 15.30 Hrs. 3)** Last date for submission of tenders: **02.01.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bids: **03.01.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be accessed from GoK KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or KPPP Helpdesk at +91-80-22371090, 22373788 or contact the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-10914
E-Tender Enq. No. 7635/P-1/EMP. 12877 dated 16.12.2024.
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_131522_1 for procuring two numbers multipurpose fire tenders with TATA Motors make chassis from fabricator for fire fighting services at GGSSTP Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 16.12.2024 from 05:00 PM onwards.
Note :- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP-132/24 76155/12/3728/2023/40036

INBRIEF

Penalty up to ₹1 crore for airline bomb hoax threats

The Centre has amended the Aircraft (Security) Rules, 2023, providing a fine of up to ₹1 crore for making hoax bomb threats. In a notification on December 16, the Ministry of Civil Aviation inserted Section 30A in the Rules that makes it punishable to communicate false information so as to "jeopardise the safety and security of an aircraft, aerodrome or civil aviation facility or both; cause panic among passengers, crew and ground personnel; or disrupt the civil aviation operation." Another rule inserted is Rule 29A which allows the Director General to issue directions in writing to refuse admission to any person or group of persons in the aircraft.

Scientists develop *Kisan Kavach* to help farmers

Akin to the protective PPE kits that health workers don, scientists affiliated to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have developed an 'anti-pesticide' suit called *Kisan Kavach*. The suit is intended to protect farm labourers from imbibing the pesticides they spray. Several of the common pesticides are potential neurotoxins and detrimental to health. The kit consists of a trouser, pullover, and a face-cover made of 'oxime fabric' that can chemically breakdown any of the common pesticides that get sprayed onto cloth or body during spraying operations. This prevents chemicals from leaching into the skin. The price per kit is ₹4,000.

Panel led by ex-ISRO chief advises restructuring of NTA

The committee suggests better coordination with States and Digi-Exam to make exam process foolproof; Union Minister says NTA will be restructured in 2025 and new posts will be created

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A high-level committee of experts, headed by the former Chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K. Radhakrishnan, has recommended restructuring of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, while talking to presspersons about the report submitted to the Education Ministry recently, said the NTA would be restructured in 2025 on the recommendations of the panel.

The seven-member panel was appointed in June following complaints of question paper leak in the Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG).

The panel has recommended Digi-Exam, on the lines of Digi-Yatra, to make the examination process foolproof. The report said such a system will ensure that the candidate writing the exam is the one who joined the programme. "Essentially, authentication at the stages of application, test, admission/induction and study/work..." the report said.

Complete overhaul: Students protesting against the NTA at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in August. FILE PHOTO

The panel recommended that an empowered and accountable governing body with three designated sub-committees should be set up to oversee test audit, ethics and transparency, nomination and staff conditions and stakeholder relationships. "NTA needs to be manned with internal domain-specific human resources and a leadership team with domain expertise, proven experience and skill sets who should take charge of the testing process in the future," the report said adding that the NTA should primarily conduct entrance examinations. "Enhancing its scope for other examinations may be considered after the capacity of NTA is augmented," the report said.

The Director-General should be an officer not below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Union government under the Central Staffing Scheme, the report said and recommended 10 specific verticals for NTA, headed at the director level.

To address the complaints from the States, the panel said the NTA should develop institutional linkage with State/District authorities for providing a secure test administration apparatus. "The Committee recommends that coordination committees at State and District levels may be set up with specified roles and responsibilities," the report said.

The panel recommended three policy interventions: multi-session testing and multi-stage testing for NEET-UG and multitude subject streams for CUET.

"The parameters and methodology of normalisation process that is integral to multi-session testing, should be well-defined, established, documented, and communicated transparently for each test," it said.

The panel has also recommended a coherent series of measures to prevent breaches and malpractices while conducting the tests.

It has also provided detailed precautions while setting question papers, printing press, transportation, selection of centres, seat allotment, frisking, steps to prevent impersonation, handling of unused OMR sheets and question papers, back transportation of OMR sheets and declaration of results.

Mr. Pradhan said the NTA will be restructured in 2025 and new posts will be created.

"The NTA will be limited to conducting only entrance exams for higher education and not conduct any recruitment exams from next year," Mr. Pradhan said and added that CUET-UG will continue to be held once a year.

Govt. mulls holding NEET-UG exam in online mode

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Candidates for NEET-UG waiting outside an examination hall in Coimbatore.

The Union government is exploring the possibility of holding the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) for admission to undergraduate medical education in online mode rather than the present offline mode.

Talking to presspersons here on Tuesday, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said his Ministry will take a decision soon.

The NEET-UG is administered by the Union Health Ministry and is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), an arm under the Union Education Ministry.

Mr. Pradhan said his Ministry had two rounds of discussions with the Health Ministry on the matter.

"The administrative ministry of NEET is Health Ministry and hence we are in talks with them about whether NEET should be conducted in pen-and-paper mode or online mode. We have had two rounds of talks with the Health Ministry. Whatever option will be considered best suited for conducting the exam, the NTA is ready to undertake the exercise," he said.

More than 24 lakh students had appeared for NEET-UG in 2024.

Mr. Pradhan said the reforms in this examination will be implemented in 2025.

"What will be NEET's methodology, what will be the protocol? A decision is expected soon. We will notify it soon," he added.

Textbooks to cost less

Mr. Pradhan said the prices of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks for some classes will be reduced from the next academic year. The NCERT, which currently prints five crore textbooks a year, is working to augment capacity to 15 crore from next year," he said adding that for Classes 9 to 12, new textbooks prepared based on updated curriculum will be made available from the 2026-27 academic session.

CLAT candidates aggrieved over 'errors'; consortium denies laxity

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A petition challenging the correctness of the provisional answer key of the postgraduate Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) held on December 1 for admission to 24 national law universities has sparked a debate.

The Supreme Court on December 9 disposed of the petition on the ground of maintainability, orally remarking that litigation in the top court over national exams tended to delay the results. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna gave the petitioners liberty to approach the jurisdictional High Court.

The petition, filed by Anam Khan and Ayush Agarwal, alleged that the provisional answer key released on December 2 contained significant errors, including incorrect answers to 12 questions.

The petition alleged that the provisional answer key had significant errors, including incorrect answers.

Persons associated with the legal representation of the Consortium of National Law Universities (CNLU), which conducts the test, said the final answer key was out by the time the case came up on December 9. The consortium advanced the release of the final answer key and results to December 7 from December 10. "The provisional answer key had mistakes which were not resolved even in the final answer key," Manasi Bhushan, advocate who appeared for the petitioners in the court, said. "There are precedents when the Supreme Court has promptly adjudicated and granted interim relief in petitions challenging pan-India exam conduct. In my opinion, it becomes easier to seek relief [like stay] from the apex court as relief is applicable all across India. Seeking relief before High Court/s may create difficulty in terms of conflicting judgments and operation of stay only for that state's jurisdiction."

A corporate lawyer-turned-CLAT mentor, Nishant Prakash, alleged that the CLAT (undergraduate) was also "conducted in an equally unprofessional manner". "Four questions of the logical reasoning section were absolutely wrong which were later retracted by the consortium in the final answer key. Three more answers in the provisional answer keys were changed later upon the grievances raised by the students. I strongly believe that the consortium cannot be absolved just by withdrawing these questions as the majority of students land up wasting time trying these questions and could not complete the paper," he said.

S. Shanthakumar, Director of the Gujarat National Law University and vice-president, CNLU Governing Body, said "extreme care is always taken to avoid mistakes". "In law, the questions and the answer options in the paper are interpreted differently by different people," he said.

Sewer, septic tank cleaning an occupation-based work: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Citing data from its first-ever survey of sewer and septic tank workers across India, the Union Social Justice Ministry on Tuesday told Parliament that sewer and septic tank cleaning is "occupation-based activity rather than caste-based" work.

The data from the survey, part of the government's NAMASTE programme and first reported by *The Hindu* in September, showed that nearly 92% of all workers profiled were from the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes communities, with the remaining around 8% from the general category.

Responding to a question from the Congress MP for Ganganagar, Kuldeep Indora, Union Minister of State for Social Justice

Ramdas Athawale. PTI

Ramdas Athawale said a total of 54,574 such workers across 33 States and Union Territories had been profiled and validated under the programme.

Of these, 67.91% (37,060) were from SC communities, 15.73% (8,587) were from OBC communities, 8.31% (4,536) were from STs, and 8.05% (4,391) were from the general category.

"Sewer and septic tank cleaning is an occupation-based activity rather than caste-based," Mr. Athawale said.Profiling of these workers is being carried out as part of the NAMASTE programme, a scheme to mechanise all sewer work and prevent deaths due to hazardous cleaning work. In 2023-24, it was brought in to replace the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

The Centre's rationale is that manual scavenging as a practice has ended across the country and what needs to be fixed now is the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. It draws this distinction based on a technical difference in how manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning are defined in the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act. Between 2019 and 2023, at least 377 people died from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, according to data tabled in Parliament.

Nagaland group agrees to frontier territory offer

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

An organisation seeking statehood in Nagaland has accepted the Centre's offer for a "unique arrangement with executive, legislative, and financial autonomy" for the Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT).

The FNT is an alternative to statehood that the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) demanded more than a decade ago for the Naga tribes of six 'backward' districts.

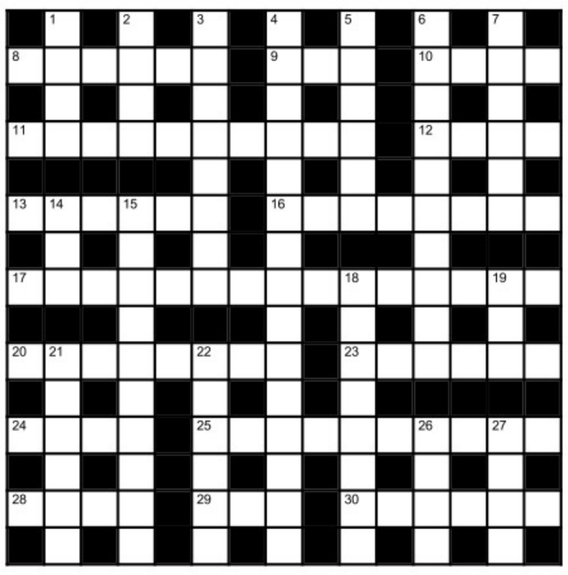
"During the meeting, the ENPO delegation made its stand very clear that the demand of the people of eastern Nagaland is for a separate statehood 'Frontier Nagaland'. However, the ENPO decided to temporarily accept the offer of FNT," the group said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14359

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Player plays or talks! (6)
9 Partly reject or object (3)
10 Honour in Thailand (4)
11 Wicked, bad criminal entertains one, and then ... one gets sucked into local fights! (10)
12 A great deal of reflection, one goes back to wise men! (4)
13 Talk about working with female sailor (6)
16 State cleaning out northern mutiny (8)
17 Not in favour of cereal, in an unnatural way (7,3,5)
20 Soldier who specialises in operations, and naked party! (8)
23 Lead work in prison cell (6)
24 Small twist! Romeo's killed! Shock! (4)
25 Publication about city on border of the woods (10)
28 When one gets cold? (4)
29 Part of neighbourhood owned by all of us (3)
30 Small pressure leading to fall and injury (6)

Down

1 Detain a Zionist hiding a fascist (4)
2 Fat and loud leaders of local autonomous boards (4)
3 Not having a say at all! Back to most hectic course! (8)
4 What is seen after 4, for instance? (11,4)
5 Advance payment to clerk without limits (6)
6 Signals with gang's instrument of torture (10)
7 Fall back on liquor and Hinglish, say (6)
14 Expression of surprise for slightest of weight! (3)
15 Just men did dash behind false attitude (4-6)
18 Allies press onwards, holding drink! (8)
19 Irritation, rage, annoyance basically (3)
21 Around a billion spent on endless binge trip (6)
22 Idea of midday snacking, bits of tawa idlis! (6)
26 Bird found in peninsular Korea! (4)
27 Secure languid fellow lacking speed! (4)

SUDOKU

	8	9			2	3	5	
2			3			9		8
		3						2
	6			9				
	2	5				4	6	
				4			3	
8						5		
9		1			3			7
	7	6	4			8	9	

No.SS6373 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	3	6	7	4	8	1	2
4	6	1	3	2	8	7	5	9
8	2	7	5	9	1	4	3	6
6	9	2	1	8	7	3	4	5
1	8	5	4	3	6	9	2	7
7	3	4	2	5	9	6	8	1
3	1	8	9	6	2	5	7	4
2	7	9	8	4	5	1	6	3
5	4	6	7	1	3	2	9	8

FAITH

Doing one's duty

Sanjaya advises Yudhishthira to give up the idea of waging war against his cousins, P.T. Seshadri said in a discourse. But Krishna intervenes and says that Sanjaya is wrong to give such advice. It is the duty of a warrior to fight and the duty of a king to oppose injustice. Yudhishthira, therefore, has a duty to fight. This is his dharma, and svadharma cannot be given up.

Whatever we perceive as good or bad is due to karma, and every action has a result. When we are thirsty, we drink water to quench our thirst. Likewise, action and the resulting karma are connected. While it is true that everything happens according to our karma, we cannot decide to give up all action because of this.

Bhishma tells Yudhishthira about two dharmas – rajya dharma and moksha dharma. As a king, Yudhishthira has certain duties, and this is what we call pravrutti marga. A sanyasi has given up everything, and he, therefore, has no duties as such. This is called nivrutti marga. Yudhishthira is very much a man of the world. After all, he did ask the Kauravas for his kingdom. When the Kauravas refused, he was prepared to settle for five villages. So in some way, he was always involved in worldly life. We cannot choose to live a worldly life and then say that we will not perform our duties.

A jnani does not see anything as joyful or sorrowful. He just takes everything as it comes. But we, who lack this jnana, are prepared to accept what we find pleasing, and refuse to accept what we find unpleasant. In life, we cannot be selective about what we want to face. It is not in our hands, and it is based on our karma.

INBRIEF

Taiwanese laptop maker MSI starts production at Chennai

Taiwanese laptop maker MSI announced the commencement of its manufacturing operations in India with its first facility in Chennai. In line with the objective of "Make in India", MSI will unveil locally-made versions of two laptop models – the MSI Modern 14 and MSI Thin 15, a statement said. To enhance the accessibility of products, MSI is raising number of touchpoints, including more laptop brand stores and availability at Croma and Reliance Retail. PTI

Granules gets U.S. FDA nod for copy of Takeda's ADHD drug

Granules India has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for Lisdexamfetamine Dimesylate chewable tablets, its generic version of Takeda Pharmaceuticals' central nervous system stimulant Vyvanse chewable tablets indicated for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and moderate to severe binge eating disorder. Lisdexamfetamine Dimesylate chewable tablets currently figure in the FDA Drug Shortages List.

CBDT unveils campaign on ITR-AIS mismatch

The Income Tax department said it is sending SMS and emails to taxpayers and non-filers where it identified mismatch in transactions between Annual Information Statement (AIS) and income disclosed in Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the financial years 2023-24 and 2021-22. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said it has started an electronic campaign. PTI

Finance Minister asserts Q2 growth 'blip' is temporary

Nirmala Sitharaman exudes confidence about 'healthy growth' in the coming quarters, and food inflation easing as the Kharif crop is estimated to be higher and the Centre is building buffers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday dismissed concerns about a cyclical growth slowdown and a generalised downturn in India's manufacturing sector, terming the disappointing 5.4% second quarter growth numbers as a 'temporary blip' caused by a multitude of factors, including the conduct of the general elections and the alignment of the festival calendar in this year compared to 2023-24.

Responding to the debate in the Lok Sabha on the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2024-25, that entail a net cash outgo of ₹44,182.87 crore, she also asserted that the Union Government remains committed to better management of food inflation, where prices of some food products are volatile owing to weather vagaries.

The Minister said she is optimistic about further 'softening of food inflation pressures' in light of an expected increase in kharif foodgrain output as per the first advance estimates of farm output in 2024-25, even as the government is making efforts to build buffers for key food items such as cereals and pulses.

She also pointed to the Centre's efforts to provide essentials like dal and atta at an affordable price, and distributing onions, rice, tur dal, wheat flour, gram at subsidised prices.

All is well: The FM said India's core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, is at a decadal low. SANSAD TV

Arguing the NDA's record had been better on inflation management in the past 25 years than the UPA's decade in office between 2004 and 2014, the FM said that core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, is at a decadal low.

Noting India's real growth rate in this year was 6.7% and 5.4% in the first and second quarters (Q1 and Q2) of 2024-25, she conceded the Q2 rate is slower than was expected.

"The second quarter has been a challenging one for India and most economies in the world. In the last three years, India's GDP growth rate has averaged 8.3%. This is outstanding, I don't want to judge myself or theMministry, but you can compare it with the world. India has been the fastest growing major economy of the world and the credit goes to the people of India... and the leadership that puts policy upfront and responds to people and their aspirations," she said.

"Out of the 12 quarters in the previous three years, GDP growth rate was lower than 5.4% in two quarters - Q4 of 2021-22, and Q3 of 2022-23. So, it is important to understand that this drop happened in just two of the last 12 quarters. Let us not pick one number and predict the future, there has been a sustained growth..." she pointed out.

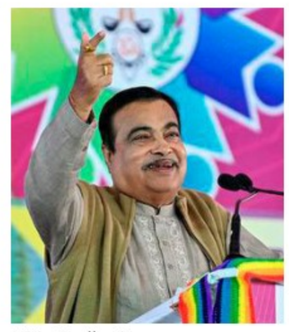
She also said the regular Union Budget was passed in the middle of August 2024, so effectively, the implementation of new projects started after that, which is no different from earlier years when Parliamentary polls were held

"The government believes the trend in Q2 is only a temporary blip and the economy will see healthy growth in the next quarters. Also, a generalised slowdown in manufacturing is not expected as it is restricted to few sections only," she underlined, calling for the 'blip to be understood in the broader context'.

Calendar effects

"Out of 23 manufacturing sectors in the IIP, about half of them remain strong even now, so we need to put this in context. Capital expenditure of the Union government has grown by 6.4% between July and October 2024, so I am very optimistic about improved performance going forward," she averred.

She also cited the differences in alignments of festivities between last year's September and October months and the current year, that created a "modest downward bias" because there were 15 days when people do not spend and it came very close to *Dussehra* when people spend. "So, that quarter got affected by a good spending fortnight and a not-so-good spending fortnight both occurring in that quarter itself," the Minister explained.



Nitin Gadkari

'Deploy Made in India machinery to reduce infra project costs'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari urged infrastructure industry stakeholders to adopt 'Made in India' machinery that would help reduce project costs.

The Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways made these remarks on Tuesday at Assocham's annual infrastructure conference. There are many under-construction tunnel projects in India.

"We should have... good technology. But at the same time, we have to reduce the cost. And for that reason, my request to all of you is that how it is possible for us, to have Made in India machinery, which is our dream and which is the mission for all of us," Mr. Gadkari said.

Project costs should be reduced without compromising on quality, as bridge and tunnel projects were very crucial, he sai. The minister revealed that 55% work on the Zojila tunnel project was complete.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,684	-1.30
US Dollar	84.91	0.00
Gold	79,300	1.21
Brent oil	72.70	-1.58

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2487.60	-24.80
Adani Ports	1231.90	-11.25
Apollo Hosp	7218.75	-40.45
Asian Paints	2356.00	-46.25
Axis Bank	1136.25	-14.65
Bajaj Auto	8895.00	-103.35
Bajaj Finserv	1643.15	-30.50
Bajaj Finance	7152.80	-55.60
Bharat Elec	310.60	-5.60
Bharti Airtel	1615.30	-47.25
BPCL	293.00	-4.95
Britannia Ind	4776.75	-69.75
Cipla	1450.85	2.40
Coal India	402.90	-7.55
Dr Reddys Lab	1247.65	-22.30
Eicher Motors	4742.65	-95.85
Grasim Ind	2599.70	-85.45
HCL Tech	1950.60	-3.80
HDFC Bank	1833.25	-31.95
HDFC Life	626.75	-8.20
Hero MotoCorp	4415.10	-123.90
Hindalco	639.45	-14.05
Hind Unilever	2363.25	-2.90
ICICI Bank	1333.75	-12.35
IndusInd Bank	975.65	-23.70
Infosys	1976.60	-3.45
ITC	469.55	-0.55
JSW Steel	966.85	-23.50
Kotak Bank	1784.05	-20.40
L&T	3807.20	-70.65
M&M	3041.50	-43.35
Maruti Suzuki	11108.55	-168.45
NestleIndia	2202.95	-35.80
NTPC	349.05	-3.85
ONGC	247.40	-4.40
PowerGrid Corp	329.80	-5.20
Reliance Ind	1245.30	-23.00
SBI Life	1409.70	-11.95
State Bank	850.55	-10.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2976.90	-160.55
Sun Pharma	1789.05	-20.75
TataConsumerProduct	904.90	-15.45
Tata Motors	779.75	-5.05
Tata Steel	145.68	-2.11
TCS	4328.50	-86.70
Tech Mahindra	1770.75	-4.80
Titan	3406.10	-32.10
Trent Ltd.	6941.65	-58.70
UltraTech Cement	11774.95	-167.55
Wipro	308.85	-0.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.70	85.02
Euro	88.80	89.14
British Pound	107.43	107.84
Japanese Yen (100)	55.07	55.28
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.67
Swiss Franc	94.46	94.83
Singapore Dollar	62.69	62.94
Canadian Dollar	59.29	59.54
Malaysian Ringitt	18.95	19.04
Australian Dollar	53.69	53.90

Source:Indian Bank

Sensex slides 1.3% on export plunge, Fed's rate review

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's key benchmark indices tumbled around 1.3% on Tuesday, thanks to weak sentiment after merchandise exports hit a 25-month low in November, and a renewed selling spree from foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) ahead of the U.S. Federal Reserve's monetary policy review on Wednesday.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 1,064 points to 80,684 points led by BhartiAirtel (2.83%), IndusInd Bank (2.46%), JSW Steel (2.40%), TCS (2.07%) and Asian Paints (1.94%). All the 30 stocks in the index ended in the red. The NSE Nifty index fell 332 points, or 1.35%, to 24,336 points.

'About 20% of AIF money used to circumvent laws'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

About 20% of investments in Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) has been used to circumvent financial-regulations, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) whole time member Ananth Narayan asserted on Tuesday.

"One of the challenges we had with a light-touch regulation framework is that we have seen cases of funds being structured to supplement existing financial sector regulations," he said. "So, of the ₹5 lakh crore of actual drawdown, around ₹1 lakh crore of investment has been questionable in terms of the regulatory intent behind those investments," he said at a national summit on AIFs organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry or CII.

Ananth Narayan

AIFs are often used by high net-worth individuals to invest in start-ups, infrastructure funds and other complex high-return, high-risk investment avenues to grow their wealth.

Late start of crushing dents sugar production.

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Sugar production during the current season that started on October 1 stood at 61.39 lakh tonne till December 15 against 74.05 lakh tonne a year earlier, according to ISMA.

The Indian Sugar and Bio Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) said that 477 factories were operating now, compared with 496 last year.

"This year, sugar factories in Karnataka started late by about 7-12 days while in another major State, Maharashtra, mills started late by 15-20 days, compared with last year. However, the number of operating factories and the corresponding crush rate is picking up at a faster rate," ISMA said.

Sugar diversion towards ethanol is estimated to be higher at about 40 lakh tonne compared with 21.5 lakh tonne last year.

In UP, 117 factories crushed 23.04 lakh tonne, almost 1 lakh tonne higher than last year. In Maharashtra, 183 were in operation against 191 last year. Migrant workers were not available for cane crushing in Maharashtra due to polls. In Karnataka, fields were wet due to late rains and mills started crushing only by November 8.

RBI lifts restrictions on ECL Finance and Edelweiss ARC

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will has decided to lift the restrictions placed on ECL Finance Ltd. and Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (ARC) with immediate effect.

The RBI had, on May 29, imposed business restrictions on the two Edelweiss Group entities.

ECL was asked to cease and desist from undertaking structured transactions in respect of wholesale exposures other than repayment, and/or account closure, during the normal course of business.

Edelweiss ARC was asked to cease and desist from acquiring financial assets, including security receipts (SRs) and reorganising existing SRs into senior and subordinate tranches.

"Having satisfied itself based on submissions and remedial measures put in place by the companies to address the concerns of RBI and their commitment to ensure adherence to the regulatory guidelines, it has been decided to lift the restrictions placed on ECL Finance Ltd. and Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd., with immediate effect," the RBI said.

Blackstone JV Ventive Hospitality unveils IPO

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ventive Hospitality Ltd. (Formerly ICC Realty (India) Private Ltd.) will enter the capital market with an Initial Public Offer (IPO) in the price band of ₹610 to ₹643 per equity share with a face value of ₹1 each.

The IPO at the upper price band will fetch ₹1,600 crore. The issue will open on December 20 and close December 24.

The firm is a joint venture (JV) between U.S.-based Blackstone Group and Panchshil Realty. Panchshil Realty holds 60% stake with Blackstone owning the balance.

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation
Executive Engineer-Building Department
Phone: (0240) 2333536-40, 2348001-05, Fax: (0240) 2331213
Ow/CSMC/EE-Building/2024/103 Date: 17/12/2024
Corrigendum
Re-Schedule of Pre-bid Meeting
Reference: Tender ID 2024_AMCA_1121228_1
The Pre-bid meeting for the referred Tender of Development of Museum using Modern Technologies at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research Centre, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar scheduled on 17/12/2024 has been rescheduled to 18/12/2024, Wednesday at 11 a.m due to administrative reasons.
Please take note.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Building)
CSMC, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
DIPR/C/12817/2024

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT
Office of the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Sangareddy
Tenders are invited for **e-procurement Notice No. 29/2024-25 Dt: 16.12.2024. Major Irrigation** - Singur Project - C.C. Lining of M. Bagareddy Singur canals pertaining to Andole, Pulkal, Choutkur, Munipally and Sadasivapet Mandals of Sangareddy District with **ECV:** 13389.24 Lakhs from **Dt: 21.12.2024 to 04.01.2025.** For Details visit e-procurement market place **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** from Dt: 21.12.2024.
Sd/- **Superintending Engineer,**
Irrigation Circle, Sangareddy
DIPR R.O. No.7971-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt.17.12.2024

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani, Chetak Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001
Phone no. : 0294-2528265 Email:- aceudaipur2019@gmail.com
No.- ACE/Actt.-IV/F./2024/10820 Dated:- 12/12/24
CORRIGENDUM- 1st – NIT No. 05/2024-25
NIB Code- WRD2425A0319
The dates for downloading and uploading bids for work in NIT no. 05/2024-25 **"Survey, Investigation, Planning, Design and Construction of Nimboda Minor Irrigation Project"** is hereby extended till **01-01-2025**, upto 06:00 PM due to unavoidable circumstances. Updated particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & departmental website. www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd,
UBN No. WRD2425WLOB01236
R.O. No. 11692 Date 25-11-2024
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/13011/2024 **Water Resources Zone, Udaipur**

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE ALWAR
PHED CAMPUS, MANU MARG ALWAR (RAJ.) E-Mail- phed_sealw@rediffmail.com
No- 5969-81 Date- 10-12-24
NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT No. 44-49/2024-25)
Bids for Works of Construction of Source, PLI of Rising Main & Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Construction of Reservoir for Various villages are invited from interested bidders up to 06:00 PM on Date 07.01.2025. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
UBN:-
PHE2425WSOB06873, PHE2425WSOB06874, PHE2425WSOB06875, PHE2425WSOB06876, PHE2425WSOB06877, PHE2425WSOB06878
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/12817/2024 **PHED Circle, Alwar**

Office of the Superintending Engineer Water Resources Circle Pali
Notice Inviting Bid (NIT No. 02/2024-25)
Notice inviting NIT for work of **Construction of Sub surface barrier-on Alpa mata ji nallah & Sagriya nallah village Alpa G.P. Alpa Tehsil:-Sheoganj, Sirohi(Dist)** are invited from interested bidders' Date of sale of NIT 17.12.2024 at 10:00 hours to 16.01.2025 at upto 16:00 hours. Date of NIT opened 17.01.2025 upto 15:00 hours. Other particulars of the NIT may be visited on the **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** of the state; and Water Resources department website.
UBN No. : WRD2425WSOB01338
NIB Code :- WRD2425A0353
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/12896/2024 **Water Resources Circle, Pali**

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Establishment of 3 MLD Desalination Plant based on sea water reverse osmosis at V.O.Chidambaranar Port and Operation and Maintenance for 3 Years on EPC Mode	89,00,00,000/-	1,14,00,000/-	17.01.2025

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
VOCPA

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002
Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) - PROCUREMENT OF 400 NO'S OF CASH DISPENSERS UNDER OPEX MODEL
RFP REFERENCE NUMBER: RFP/ITD/002/24-25
DATED 25.11.2024
The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.in** & **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net**
For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net**

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002
Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - EMPANELMENT OF FINTECH COMPANIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS USE CASES AND BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS OF THE BANK ACROSS MULTIPLE DOMAINS
EOI REFERENCE NUMBER: EOI/ITD/002/2024-25
DATED 12.12.2024
The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.in** & **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN:- U40102RJ2000SGCO16484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
O/o CE (NPP), 5th Floor, Dreamax Plaza, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005
E-mail : ce.npp@rrvun.com, Website- www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl
INVITATION FOR BIDS – CS-8031-001-2
Online Bids are invited for EPC package for Chhabra Super Thermal Power Project, Stage-III (2x660 MW) Ultra Supercritical units (International Competition bidding). The capacity expansion is being planned through a JV company of RVUN & NTPC. For detailed IFB and bidding documents please visit at http://eprocurentpc.nic.in or https://ntpctender.ntpc.co.in or www.ntpc.co.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/24/9206 RVUN/PR-4111 **Chief Engineer (NPP), RVUN**

RAJASTHAN RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
E-166, Yudhisthir Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur Tel: 2225859 / 2228198 / 2221650 Fax: 0141-2226028
CIN No. U40101RJ1995SGC009847 Email: rrec.rooftop@gmail.com Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in
No. F.7()RREC/SPV Rooftop//RREC/NIT-15/2024-25/D-12469291 Dated : 16.12.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER(RREC/TN-15/2024-25)
NIB Code.:-REC2425A0032
Online tender is invited for the work of Design, Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) for 25 years of grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Project of 511 MW capacity on State Government buildings/State Government undertaking buildings in Rajasthan for more details visit http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrecl** and **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**. The tender document may be downloaded from 17.12.2024, 6:00 PM
UBN:- REC2425WLRL00031
Raj.Samwad/C/24/9233 **Director (Technical)**

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)
BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for the Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT287 for **"Maintenance of LT AB Cable Network of West Circle area, BMAZ, BESCOM for a period of One Year under Total Turnkey Basis"**.
Bid Documents available: 18.12.2024. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 16.01.2025, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 17.01.2025, 17:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.
Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM

WELLINGTON

Magnitude 7.3 earthquake causes widespread damage in Vanuatu

AFP

A powerful magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck just off the coast of Vanuatu on Tuesday, causing widespread destruction in the South Pacific island nation as the injured began arriving at a hospital and unconfirmed reports of casualties emerged. A tsunami warning was called off less than two hours after the quake. AP

WASHINGTON

'15-year-old girl kills teacher and student at a school in Wisconsin'

REUTERS

A 15-year-old girl was identified by the police as the assailant who opened fire on Monday at a school in the U.S. State of Wisconsin, where a fellow student and teacher were killed and the suspected shooter was found dead. Seven were wounded at the Abundant Life Christian School, a private Christian school with 400 students. AFP

BEIJING

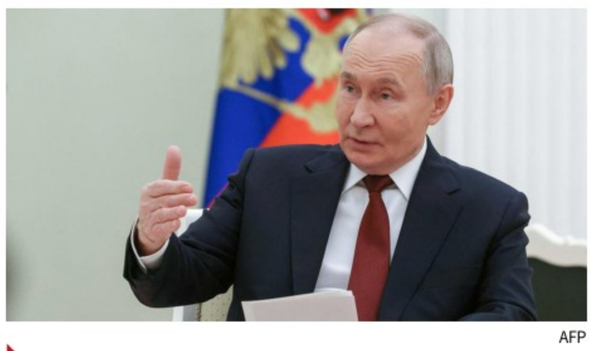
China and U.S. can achieve 'great things': Foreign Minister Wang Yi

AFP

China's Foreign Minister said on Tuesday that Beijing and Washington can achieve "many great things" if they work together, ahead of next month's inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump. But top diplomat Wang Yi also warned against what he called the U.S.'s "crude interference" on the issue of Taiwan. AFP

MOSCOW

Russian MPs approve Bill that can remove Taliban's terrorist tag



AFP

The Lower House of Russia's parliament on Tuesday approved a Bill that would set the stage for Moscow to remove the designation of the Taliban in Afghanistan as a terrorist group. The legislation still needs to be approved by the Upper House and signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law. AP

Senior Russian General killed in Moscow blast

Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, the chief of the military's nuclear, biological and chemical protection forces, was killed by a bomb hidden in a scooter outside his apartment building in Moscow as he was leaving for office; he was accused by Ukraine of directing the use of banned chemical weapons

Associated Press

A senior Russian General was killed on Tuesday by a bomb hidden in a scooter outside his apartment building in Moscow, a day after Ukraine's security service levelled criminal charges against him. A Ukrainian official said the service carried out the attack.

Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, the chief of the military's nuclear, biological and chemical protection forces, was killed as he left for his office. Mr. Kirillov's assistant also died in the attack.

Mr. Kirillov, 54, was under sanctions from several countries, including the U.K. and Canada, for his actions in Moscow's war in Ukraine. On Monday, Ukraine's Security Service, or SBU, opened a criminal investigation against him, accusing him of directing the use of banned chemical weapons.

An official with the SBU said the agency was behind the attack. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to release the information, described Mr. Kirillov as a "war criminal and an entirely legitimate target."

The SBU has said it recorded more than 4,800 occasions when Russia used chemical weapons on the battlefield since its full-scale invasion in February 2022. In May, the U.S. State Department said that it had recorded the use of chloropicrin, a poison gas first deployed in First World War, against Ukrainian troops.

Controversial figure: Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov was under sanctions from several countries for his actions in Moscow's war in Ukraine. AP

Russia has denied using any chemical weapons in Ukraine and, in turn, has accused Kyiv of using toxic agents in combat.

Mr. Kirillov, who took his current job in 2017, was one of the most high-profile figures to level those accusations. He held numerous briefings to accuse the Ukrainian military of using toxic agents and planning to launch attacks with radioactive substances – claims that Ukraine and its Western allies rejected as propaganda.

The bomb used in Tuesday's attack was triggered remotely, according to Russian news reports.

The SBU official provided footage that they said was of the bombing. It shows two men leaving a building shortly before a blast fills the frame.

Russia's top state investigative agency said it's investigating Kirillov's death as a case of terrorism, and officials in Moscow vowed to punish Ukraine.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, described the attack as an attempt by Kyiv to distract public attention away from its military failures and vowed that its "senior military-political leadership will face inevitable retribution."

Advantage Russia

Over the past year, Russia has been on the front foot in the war in Ukraine, grinding deeper into the eastern region of Donetsk region despite heavy losses.

Ukraine tried to change the dynamic with an incursion into Russia's Kursk region, but it has continued to slowly lose ground on its own territory.

U.K. announces curbs on 20 Russian ships part of 'shadow fleet'

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

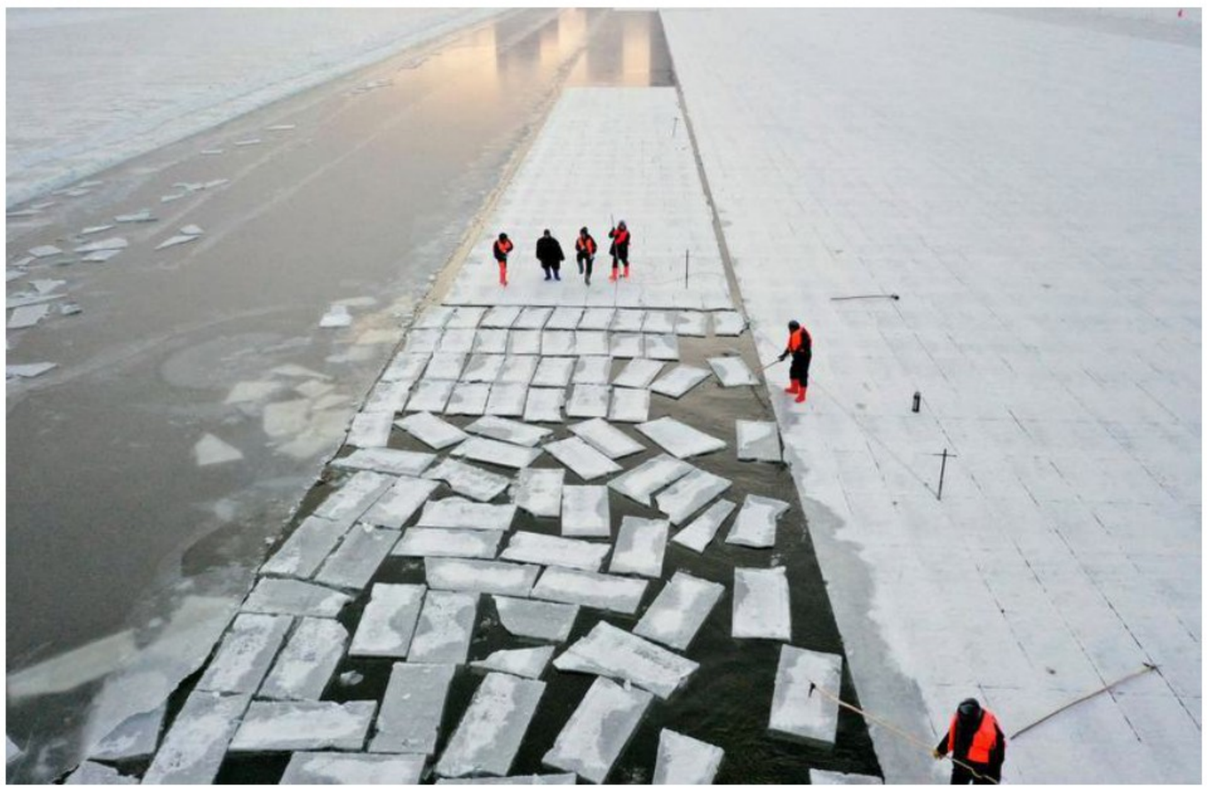
The U.K. government announced sanctions on 20 Russian ships, which it alleged are part of Moscow's "shadow fleet" carrying Russian oil. Tuesday's list includes *Ocean Faye*, *Andaman Skies* and *Mianzimu*, each of which has carried more than four million barrels of Russian oil this year, Downing Street said.

The U.K. has already sanctioned more then 100 Russian ships dealing in Russian energy products, including 93 oil tankers, as per official data. Britain also announced sanctions on energy companies 2Rivers DMCC and 2Rivers PTE LTD on Tuesday in addition to £35 million in emergency funding for Ukraine.

"These sanctions will add further pressure to Putin's stalling war economy, just as we strengthen Ukraine's hand with new funding for emergency support to meet its humanitarian needs and for vital repairs to the energy system, to help Ukrainians living through the third winter of Russia's illegal full-scale invasion," U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said.

On Monday, 12 European countries had agreed to "disrupt and deter" Russia's "shadow fleet" ahead of a leader-level meeting of the 10-nation Joint Expeditionary Force in Tallinn, Estonia, on Tuesday.

'Ice-breaking' session



Workers harvest ice from the frozen Songhua river on Tuesday in preparation for the annual Harbin Ice and Snow World festival held in Harbin in China's northeastern Heilongjiang province. The festival runs from late December to late February. AFP

Will keep control over Gaza after war, says Katz

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Tuesday that his country's forces would be free to act in the Gaza Strip even after its war with Hamas ends.

"After eliminating Hamas's military and governmental capabilities in Gaza, Israel would have security control over Gaza with complete freedom of action" for the Israeli military, Mr. Katz said in a post on X, noting that it was his own "position".

Mr. Katz said that Israel's future control over Gaza should be "exactly like in Judea and Samaria", the biblical names for the West Bank which Israel has occupied since 1967 and where its forces conduct frequent raids.

The question of Gaza's post-war governance has remained unresolved, more than a year since Israel vowed to crush Hamas in retaliation for its October 7, 2023 attack.

Predecessor's stand

Mr. Katz's predecessor Yoav Gallant had voiced firm opposition to any prolonged Israeli control of Gaza, from which Israel withdrew troops and settlers in 2005 after decades of direct rule.

In May, then as Defence Minister, Mr. Gallant said that he would "not agree to the establishment of an Israeli military administration in Gaza". "Israel must not have civilian control over the Gaza Strip," Mr. Gallant said at the time, urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to devise a post-war plan for the territory. Mr. Netanyahu sacked Mr. Gallant in November, citing disagreements over war policies.

Myanmar rebels recapture headquarters after 30 years

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Karen National Union fighters seized Manerplaw on the Thai border after days of fighting

A Myanmar ethnic rebel group said on Tuesday it had recaptured its headquarters from the Myanmar military, almost 30 years after it was forced out.

Karen National Union (KNU) fighters had seized Manerplaw on the Thai border following days of fighting, KNU leader Saw Thamain Tun said.

For years Manerplaw was the headquarters of the KNU's decades-long armed struggle for rights for the Karen minority and home to other dissident politicians opposing Myanmar's then-junta.

Following a split within the Christian-majority KNU, the junta and a breakaway Buddhist faction captured the base in 1995, sending thousands fleeing into Thailand.

After the fall of Manerplaw, the junta renamed the area Kayin State and put the Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization, an allied armed group, in charge of it.

Manerplaw "was a historical place for the Karen", said Saw Thamain Tun, with around 100 of its soldiers buried there.

Nations open embassies, engage with Syria's new rulers after Assad's ouster

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Syria's new rulers stepped up engagement on Tuesday with countries that deemed ousted President Bashar al-Assad a pariah, with the French flag raised at the embassy for the first time in over a decade.

Mr. Assad fled Syria just over a week ago, as his forces abandoned tanks and other equipment in the face of a lightning offensive spearheaded by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

EU's constructive talks

Rooted in Syria's branch of al-Qaeda, the HTS is proscribed by several Western governments as a terrorist organisation, though it has sought to moderate its rhetoric and pledged to protect the country's religious minorities.

A Syrian woman with a scarf in colours of 'revolutionary' Syrian flag takes a selfie with her friends in Damascus on Tuesday. AP

The EU will reopen its mission in Syria following "constructive" talks with its new leadership, the bloc's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said, describing it as a "very important step".

Turkiye and Qatar, which backed the anti-Assad opposition, have reopened embassies in Damascus, while U.S. and British officials have launched communications with Syria's new leaders.

France, an early backer of the uprising, sent a delegation to Damascus on Tuesday, with special envoy Jean-Francois Guillaume saying his country was preparing to stand with Syrians during the transitional period.

Satisfied UN

After meeting Syria's new leaders, the United Nations humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher said on Tuesday he was "encouraged", and that there was a "basis for ambitious scaling-up of vital humanitarian support".

German diplomats were also in Damascus on Tuesday, while Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni said her country was ready to engage with the new leadership.

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION-I JAIPUR
Jyoti Nagar, Shehkar Marg Jaipur (Raj.)
Ph.: 0141-2740170 E-Mail- ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No- ACE(1)/PHED/Ar.Kotputli-Behrod/2024-25/ Date-

NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No.01-09/2024-25)

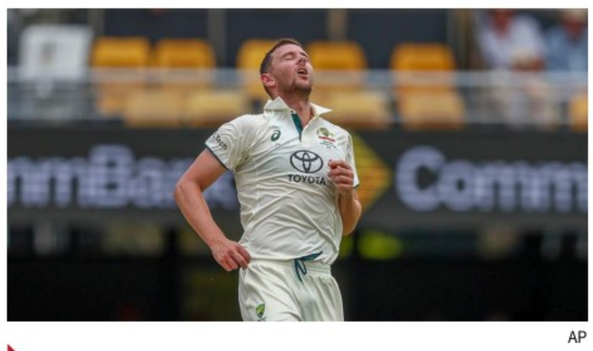
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan NIT No. 01-09/2024-25 online tender is hereby invited from eligible bidders for "Work of construction of Sources, rising main pipelines, internal village distribution pipeline and FHTC, CWR/GLR/OHSR, pump house including one year Defect Liability period of 9 Schemes under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Behror" Interested bidders may participated upto 06.00 PM on dated 08.01.2025 as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/ Tender document available on website: https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in as per prescribed schedule. **(NIB CODE- PHE2425A3259)**

NIT No.	Particular	Estt. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	UBN No.
01/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline OHSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village Shahpur under PS Bansur with 1 year defect liability period	260.90	PHE2425WSOB06926
02/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline OHSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village Gadoj under PS Behror with 1 year defect liability period	276.33	PHE2425WSOB06927
03/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline OHSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village Kohrana under PS Behror with 1 year defect liability period	290.29	PHE2425WSOB06928
04/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline OHSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village Khundroth under PS Neemrana with 1 year defect liability period	397.69	PHE2425WSOB06929
05/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline OHSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village Shahjahanpur under PS Neemrana with 1 year defect liability period	463.1	PHE2425WSOB06931
06/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline GLSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village Dahami under PS Behror with 1 year defect liability period	369.71	PHE2425WSOB06933
07/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline GLSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village Dooghera under PS Behror with 1 year defect liability period	277.40	PHE2425WSOB06934
08/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline OHSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village Khor-Banesinghpura under PS Behror with 1 year defect liability period	340.39	PHE2425WSOB06937
09/ 2024-25	Construction and commissioning of TW Rising and distribution pipeline OHSR CWR FHTC works under JJM village ANANTPURA-NIBHOR-LAKSIWAS under PS Behror with 1 year defect liability period	505.34	PHE2425WLOB06938

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
DIPR/C/12954/2024 **PHED REGION-I JAIPUR**

BIG BLOW

Hazlewood set to miss rest of Border-Gavaskar Trophy



AP

Australia had to cope with a depleted bowling attack following Josh Hazlewood's latest injury in the third Test in Brisbane on Tuesday. The speedster suffered a right calf strain and according to a Cricket Australia press release, 'he will miss the rest of the current Test'. "He is likely to miss the remainder of the Test series."

FINGERS CROSSED

Rain likely to have a big say on the final day at the Gabba

AP

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology has said that there is a "high chance of showers" on the last day of the third Test between Australia and India at the Gabba. "High chance of showers, most likely late in the morning and afternoon. There's also a chance of a thunderstorm, possibly severe," it said.

PERFECT FAREWELL

Southee finishes on a high as New Zealand posts huge win

AFP

New Zealand tore through England's batting on Tuesday to crush the visitor by 423 runs in the third Test and send Tim Southee into retirement on a triumphant note at Seddon Park in Hamilton. **The scores:** New Zealand 347 & 453 bt England 143 & 234 in 46.2 overs (Bethell 76, Root 54, Santner 4/85); **PoM:** Santner; **PoS:** Brook.

IN THE HUNT

Yoddhas stun Steelers, stay in playoffs race; Pink Panthers win

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bhavani Rajput scored 11 points to help UP Yoddhas beat table topper Haryana Steelers 31-24 in a PKL match in Pune on Tuesday to keep its play-off hopes alive. With the win, Yoddhas moved to third spot in the table. In the other match of the day, Jaipur Pink Panthers defeated Bengaluru Bulls 35-26.

Brave Bumrah and Akash help India live to fight another day

The duo, with the visitors struggling at 213 for nine and needing 246 to avoid the follow-on, takes the team to 252 for nine at close; Rahul makes the most of a dropped catch to score 84; Jadeja rises to the occasion with a crucial half-century

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

Indian cricket's seemingly eternal fan Sudhir Gautam blew his conch and waved the national flag. Out in the middle, the tail wagged furiously and it was more than enough for Rohit Sharma's men to keep their heads afloat in the third Test.

After K.L. Rahul (84) and Ravindra Jadeja (77) lent spine, it was the turn of Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep to help India avoid the follow-on during a grim Tuesday of rains and runs. At the fourth day's close here at the Gabba, India scored 252 for nine in its unfinished first innings while trailing Australia's 445. And a 193-run deficit still remains.

Needing 246 to avoid the ignominy of batting again, the visitors were struggling at 213 for nine. While the rest were losing their nerve, Bumrah and Akash stayed calm. Singles were stolen, gaps were milked, the odd four was hit and as Pat Cummins kept swapping between bouncers and deliveries hovering around off-stump, India's number 10 and 11 batters refused to budge.

Fittingly Akash got those crucial 'avoid-the-follow-on' runs and he thumped his chest. Soon bad light intervened and it fitted into the template of this contest split between rugged cricket and damp climate.

Earlier, it was a morning of glorious sunshine, moist leaves and wild mushrooms on wet tree barks. Resuming at the overnight 51 for four, India leant on Rahul and Rohit. The former suffered an instant scare as he edged the day's first delivery but Steve Smith fumbled at second slip as Cummins lapsed into despair.

Meanwhile, Rohit nudged a single off Mitchell Starc, and Rahul drove with class. Rohit too drove Cummins but the latter scalped the former with one that landed in the corridor of doubt. Rohit played just enough for Alex Carey to warm his gloves.

In dire straits

At 74 for five, Jadeja walked in and drew strength from Rahul. After a slashed four off Starc and with a 50 behind his name, the opener, easily the best Indian batter so far in this Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, remained the anchor. Meanwhile, Australia had to deal with Josh Hazlewood's absence as the seamer left to check on a niggle.

A drizzle soon ensued and on resumption, Jadeja swept Nathan Lyon, straight-drove Cummins and Rahul found his runs down the leg-side. Just as the 67-run sixth-wicket partnership seemed to find more ballast, Rahul (84) in trying to cut, ended up guiding Lyon to a diving Smith at first slip.

After a lunch-cum-rain break, Jadeja and Nitish Kumar stayed together. Jadeja got to his 50 and twirled his bat like a sword. Jadeja and a patient Nitish stitched 53 runs for the seventh wicket before the latter edged a Cummins delivery onto his stumps.

Soon, Mohammed Siraj fell to Starc and Jadeja succumbed to the short-ball trap set by Cummins. The southpaw hooked straight to Mitchell Marsh and India was down for the count but Bumrah and Akash had self-belief, and now a gripping fifth day awaits despite the expected dark clouds.

Turning it around: Rahul and Jadeja's knocks rescued India from a precarious position. AP

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS
445 in 117.1 overs

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Marsh b Starc 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, K.L. Rahul c Smith b Lyon 84 *(139b, 8x4)*, Shubman Gill c Marsh b Starc 1 *(3b)*, Virat Kohli c Carey b Hazlewood 3 *(16b)*, Rishabh Pant c Carey b Cummins 9 *(12b)*, Rohit Sharma c Carey b Cummins 10 *(27b, 2x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Marsh b Cummins 77 *(123b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Nitish Kumar b Cummins 16 *(61b, 1x4)*, Mohammed Siraj c Carey b Starc 1 *(11b)*, Jasprit Bumrah (batting) 10 *(27b, 1x6)*, Akash Deep (batting) 27 *(31b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, nb-3, w-1): 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 74.5 overs): 252.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Jaiswal, 0.2 overs), 2-6 (Gill, 2.1), 3-22 (Kohli, 7.2), 4-44 (Pant, 13.5), 5-74 (Rohit, 23.3), 6-141 (Rahul, 42.3), 7-194 (Nitish, 59.5), 8-201 (Siraj, 62.6), 9-213 (Jadeja, 65.6).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 24-3-83-3, Hazlewood 6-2-22-1, Cummins 20.5-2-80-4, Lyon 21-0-54-1, Head 1-0-1-0, Marsh 2-0-6-0.

Rahul delighted to see Indian tail wag

Gritty stand: Akash and Bumrah frustrated the Aussies with an unbroken last-wicket partnership. AP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

Like slurping a *gadbad* ice cream at his hometown Mangaluru, K.L. Rahul seems to have taken a liking for Australia's bowlers. His 84 during India's reply to Australia's 445 in the third Test, was a fine innings, and the opener found more joy in the runs that Ravindra Jadeja and the last-wicket pair of Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep scored at the Gabba here on Tuesday.

Speaking to the media, Rahul said: "It's very good to see the lower-order scoring runs. Their (Bumrah and Akash) little partnership and avoiding the follow-on makes a huge difference, especially knowing that there's a bit of rain around and so much of the game has already been lost to rain."

"In the last half an hour, it was not just the runs that they got but also the heart that they showed to keep away the bouncers. To get behind the ball, defend well, leave the ball and hit some nice shots, was really good. It will give them confidence and will give us as a group a lot of confidence," Rahul said.

Praising Jadeja, Rahul said: "I was happy that we could stitch a partnership. He went on to score 77 and every run was crucial. He understands exactly what he needs to do. Often, it's only Jadeja's bowling that's spoken about but I think he is a great performer even with the bat. He has a solid technique and keeps his game-plan really simple."

As for his batting philosophy, Rahul explained: "When you travel overseas and when you are playing quality fast bowlers. You have to respect the first 20, 30 overs. You have to just soak in the pressure and wait for your time to score runs. You have to earn the right to score runs in overseas conditions."

Vettori says Bumrah and Akash hurt Aussie plans

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

Australia's assistant coach Daniel Vettori asserted that enforcing the follow-on was always on the agenda. While talking to the media at the Gabba here on Tuesday, Vettori said: "The only way to force this game (third Test) was to enforce a follow-on. There was a desperation to get that final wicket and we thought we had a really good chance when (Ravindra) Jadeja was dismissed, but it was a real fighting partnership from (Jasprit) Bumrah and Akash (Deep)."

Asked if India's rearguard action surprised the Aussies, Vettori was quick to deny: "Any batter on any given day can step up and deliver. If you look at their averages, you might think there's not much there. But Bumrah has proven that he can put on partnerships, can attack and can defend. I think Akash is better than a number 11."

Dealing with an injury crisis related to Josh Hazlewood, Vettori explained: "He is pretty despondent. Obviously he fell this morning in warm-ups. It's just unfortunate for him to come back after another injury from the first Test and then to pick up a calf injury here. I think the weather allowed us to operate in terms of the breaks, it allowed Mitch (Starc) and Pat (Cummins) to be able to come back on multiple occasions, whereas if we had played out the full 90 overs, it would have been tougher."

Vettori felt that first innings runs were crucial considering the weather. "The first innings runs were going to be vital as you don't want to plan for the weather. Unfortunately, the amount of time lost has made it difficult."

Matthews does the star turn as WI draws level

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

It's not for nothing that Hayley Matthews is rated so high. The West Indies captain led from the front (85 n.o., 47b, 17x4) as the team cruised to a nine-wicket win against India and drew level in the three-match T20I series at the DY Patil Stadium on Tuesday.

Moving on from the defeat in the series opener, the West Indies batters put up a spirited show and chased down India's tricky total of 159 for nine without much sweat.

With the dew settling in, the Indian bowlers struggled to find breakthroughs. Making the most of the reprieves, Matthews and Qiana Joseph forged an opening stand of 66 to set the tone.

With Harmanpreet Kaur missing out due to a dodgy knee, stand-in captain Smriti Mandhana explored every possible bowling option, but nothing clicked as Matthews looked at ease en route her 15th fifty in T20Is.

She played second fiddle when Joseph went on the rampage, hammering three fours and a six in Titas Sadhu's opening over.

Switching gears

Matthews flexed her muscles soon, tearing apart Renuka Singh and taking the team to 65 in the Power-Play.

Even though Saima Thakor claimed her maiden wicket in T20Is by sending back Joseph shortly after the PowerPlay, Matthews forged an unbeaten 94-run partnership with Shemaine Campbelle (29 n.o., 26b, 4x4).

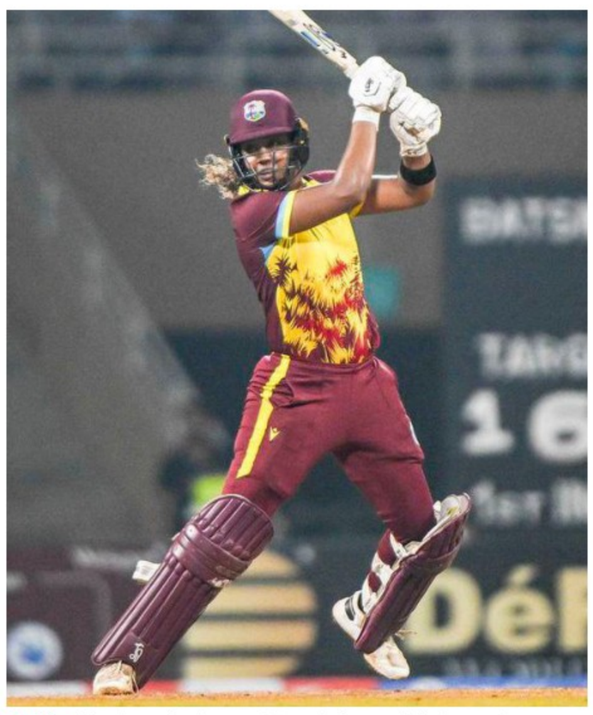
West Indies again opted to field. And the move paid off this time as it managed to reduce the hosts to 48 for three by the ninth over.

Even though Smriti cashed in on the three dropped catches to score 62 off 41 deliveries, the other top-order batters let India down. Uma Chetry, Jemimah Rodrigues and debutant Raghvi Bist failed to get going.

Richa Ghosh's 17-ball-32 took the team close to the 160-mark but that proved inadequate once Matthews took strike.

The scores: India 159/9 in 20 overs (Smriti 62, Richa 32; Henry 2/37, Dottin 2/14, Matthews 2/36) lost to West Indies 160/1 in 15.4 overs (Matthews 85 n.o., Joseph 38).

Toss: WI; **PoM:** Matthews.



On fire: Matthews' unbeaten 85 made it a stroll in the park for the West Indies. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Vinicius and Bonmati win the FIFA Best awards

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

Real Madrid attacker Vinicius Junior won the FIFA Best men's Player-of-the-Year award at a ceremony here on Tuesday, while Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati picked up the women's prize for the second time.

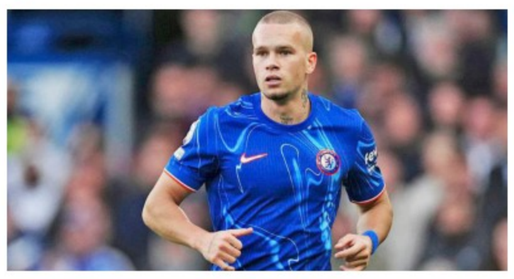
The award comes two months after 24-year-old Vinicius was second in the Ballon d'Or, with Real electing to snub the ceremony when it found out beforehand that Manchester City midfielder Rodri was set to win the trophy.

But the Brazilian was, this time, on hand to collect the prize in person as he was in Qatar with his club ahead of its Intercontinental Cup final clash with Mexico's Pachuca on Wednesday.

Say cheese! Vinicius and Bonmati with their coveted prizes. FIFA

The Best:
Men's Player: Vinicius Jr; **Women's Player:** Aitana Bonmati; **Men's Coach:** Carlo Ancelotti; **Women's Coach:** Emma Hayes; **Men's Goalkeeper:** Emiliano Martinez; **Women's Goalkeeper:** Alyssa Naeher; **Puskas Award:** Alejandro Garnacho; **Marta Award:** Marta; **FIFA Fair Play Award:** Thiago Maia; **FIFA Fan Award:** Guilherme Gandra Moura.

INBRIEF



FA notifies Mudryk of 'adverse finding' in urine sample

Chelsea said on Tuesday that it had been notified by the Football Association (FA) of an "adverse finding" in a urine sample provided by Ukrainian forward Mykhailo Mudryk. The Premier League club said the 23-year-old had "never knowingly" used banned substances and the player himself said it had come as a "complete shock".

India to host World Boxing Cup Final in Nov. 2025

India is set to host the World Boxing Cup Final in November next year, reaffirming its support for the breakaway World Boxing body. The Boxing Federation of India will also simultaneously host the third World Boxing Congress, which will include elections for the presidency and executive board. The tournament will be the first international event hosted by the BFI after opting to join the new governing body earlier this year.

India outplays Singapore in IC Rod Laver junior challenge

The Indian team proved too strong for host Singapore as it registered a 6-0 victory in a league match of the Asia-Oceania IC Rod Laver junior challenge on Tuesday. India will next play Japan in the last league match on Thursday, in the three-team competition. India, spearheaded by Manas Dhamne, and supported by Rushil Khosla, Sohini Mohanty and Asmi Adkar, had emerged the IC world wide champion last year.

The results (league): India bt Singapore 6-0 (Aradhya Kshitij bt Martin Foo 6-0, 6-1; Sohini Mohanty bt Niyati Bhandari 6-0, 6-2; Samarth Sahita bt Utaya Izumi 6-0, 6-0; Rishitha Basireddy bt Joy Shania Lee 6-1, 6-2; Aradhya & Samarth bt Martin & Utaya 6-2, 6-2; Sohini & Rishitha bt Niyati & Joy 6-0, 6-2).

First Zimbabwe-Afghanistan ODI called off due to rain

The first ODI between Zimbabwe and Afghanistan in Harare on Tuesday was called off due to rain after the hosts made 44 for five in 9.2 overs. When play started, the game was reduced to a 28-over contest. However, less than one hour later, rain forced the match to be called off and declared a "no result".

LIVE TELECAST

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
LaLiga: gxr.world, 2 a.m. (Thursday)

Neeraj eclipses Tarundeep; Ankita leads Jharkhand from the front

The star Olympian pair of Deepika and Atanu sizzles as Petroleum Sports Promotion Board books a place in the mixed team final

NATIONAL ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi
JAMSHEDPUR

On point: Neeraj and Ankita topped the recurve men's and women's ranking rounds respectively. R. RAGU

Policeman Neeraj Chauhan accumulated 692 points to break Tarundeep Rai's record of 687 and topped the recurve men's ranking round in the National archery championships at the Gopal Maidan here on Tuesday.

In the women's section, Olympian Ankita Bhakat took the number one spot with 667 points before leading host Jharkhand to the women's team title clash.

Neeraj, experiencing a revival of his career after tweaking his training schedule, shot with confidence to lead at the halfway stage before securing an overall lead. He was consistent in both segments, garnering 345 and 347 points.

"In the morning, I had a feeling that something special would happen today. Looking forward to carrying forward my form," said Neeraj.

Ankita, going through rehab for a shoulder issue, fell three short of her personal best. Later, the southpaw shot with accuracy to guide the Jharkhand side – also comprising Komalika Bari and Tamanna Verma – to overcome a strong challenge from Maharashtra and register a 5-3 victory in the semifinals.

The star Olympian pair of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das, representing Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, went past West Bengal 6-2, Andhra Pradesh 5-3 and Madhya Pradesh 6-2 to book a place in the mixed team final.

The results: Recurve: Ranking round: Individual: Men: 1. Neeraj Chauhan (AIP) 692, 2. B. Dhiraj (SSCB) 679, 3. Atanu Das (PSPB) 677; **Women:** 1. Ankita Bhakat (Jha) 667, 2. Simranjeet Kaur (Pun) 666, 3.Deepika Kumari (PSPB) 660; **Team: Men:** 1. All India Police 2022, 2. SSCB 2011, 3. Haryana 1974; **Women:** 1. Jharkhand 1945, 2. Railways 1933, 3. Madhya Pradesh 1921; **Mixed:** 1. AIP 1340, 2. PSPB 1337, 3. Jharkhand 1333. **Elimination: Team: Semifinals: Men:** Railways bt Rajasthan 5-4 (29-28), Haryana bt Services 6-0. **Women:** Jharkhand bt Maharashtra 5-3, Madhya Pradesh bt Railways 5-4 (shoot-off 25-23). **Mixed:** Punjab bt Maharashtra 5-3, PSPB bt Madhya Pradesh 6-2.

East Bengal turns the tables on Punjab

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

East Bengal scripted a spectacular comeback as it overturned a deficit of two goals to down Punjab FC 4-2 in the ISL here on Tuesday. Punjab put up a dominant performance in the opening half and scored twice with contributions from its international attackers, Asmir Suljic and Pulga Vidal.

EBFC made a remarkable return after the break as its Jordanian defender Hijazi Maher pulled one back within 90 seconds of the resumption before P.V. Vishnu, Suresh Meitei (own goal) and David Hmar found the target to complete the Kolkata outfit's impressive win.

The result: East Bengal FC 4 (Maher 46, Vishnu 54, Meitei 60-og, Hmar 67) bt Punjab FC 2 (Suljic 21, Vidal 39).

Delhi gets the better of TN; Odisha moves up with a win over Goa

SANTOSH TROPHY

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Delhi continued its unbeaten run with a 2-0 win against Tamil Nadu, while Odisha earned its first victory of the 78th Senior National football championship for the Santosh Trophy at the Deccan Arena here on Tuesday.

Delhi maintained its position with six points from two matches whereas Odisha hauled itself up from the bottom to the third spot after beating Goa 2-0.

The capital side got off to a swift start, gaining the lead in the seventh minute itself as Bhaaranyu Bansal produced a beautiful left-footed volley into the bottom corner.

Ashish Shaw (65) capitalised on a miscued clearance to head it in from close range, doubling Delhi's advantage.

Tamil Nadu remained fifth in Group B with a solitary point from its two matches.

Happy times: Odisha players celebrate a goal against Goa. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the other contest, the teams were locked goalless at half-time before Odisha drew first blood through Rahul Mukhi's 60th-minute low shot from inside the box.

Put in charge of a close-range free-kick, Kartik Hantal (64) accurately placed the ball in the top corner to give Odisha a two-goal cushion over Goa.

With two 2-0 defeats, Goa remains the only team in Group B to have not scored a single point.

The results: Delhi 2 (Bhaaranyu Bansal 7, Ashish Shaw 65) bt Tamil Nadu 0; Odisha 2 (Rahul Mukhi 60, Kartik Hantal 64) bt Goa 0; Kerala 1 (Muhammad Ajsal 37) bt Meghalaya 0.

Anthony edges out Anirban in the pre-quarterfinals

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

PSPB's Anthony Amalraj edged out eighth-seed Anirban Ghosh (RSPB) 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 7-11, 11-8 in the men's pre-quarterfinal of the UTT National Ranking table tennis championship at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

Yashaswini survives

In the women's pre-quarterfinal, fourth-seed Yashaswini Ghorpade survived a scare against Tamil Nadu's Selenadeepthi Selvakumar before prevailing 9-11, 5-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-5.

The results:
Pre-quarterfinals: Men: Harmeet Desai (PSPB) bt H. Jeho (Miz) 7-11, 11-5, 11-13, 11-6, 11-6; Anthony Amalraj (PSPB) bt Anirban Ghosh (RSPB) 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 7-11, 11-8; Snehit (IA&AD) bt Yashansh Malik (AAI) 11-5, 11-8, 11-4; Manav Thakkar (PSPB) bt Priyanuj Bhattacharyya (Asm) 11-6, 11-9, 11-8.
Payas Jain (Del) bt Jash Modi (Mah) 12-10, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8; Akash Pal (RSPB) bt Raegan Albuquerque (AAI) 10-12, 11-8, 15-13, 11-8.
Ronit Bhanja (RSPB) bt Siddhesh Pande (CRSB) 9-11, 11-4, 11-9, 11-6; Ankur Bhattacharjee (PSPB) bt Preyesh Raja Suresh (TN) 11-9, 11-8, 11-9.
Women: Nithyashree Mani (TN) bt Syndrela Das (WB) 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7.
Reeth Rishya (PSPB) bt Kaushani Nath (RSPB) 11-6, 12-10, 11-7; Madhurika Patkar (PSPB) bt Pritha Vartikar (Mah) 14-12, 14-12, 11-5; Yashaswini Ghorpade (PSPB) bt Selenadeepthi Selvakumar (TN) 9-11, 5-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-5; Swastika Ghosh (AAI) bt Takeme Sarkar (RSPB) 11-7, 7-11, 11-4, 11-4; Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) bt Yashini Sivashankar (IA&AD) 11-7, 13-15, 12-10, 11-7; Nikhat Banu (RBI) bt Divya Deshpande (PSPB) 7-11, 11-6, 11-5, 8-11, 11-9; Poymantee Baisya (RSPB) bt Mouma Das (PSPB) 11-8, 10-12, 11-13, 11-6, 11-8.

The hero: Unal celebrates with teammates after scoring Bournemouth's equaliser. AFP

Unal's late stunner rescues Bournemouth

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BOURNEMOUTH

Bournemouth's Enes Unal provided a dramatic climax to his side's 1-1 draw with West Ham on Monday as the Turkey forward's superb late free-kick cancelled out Lucas Paqueta's penalty.

Paqueta looked to have sealed West Ham's second successive Premier League victory when he converted from the spot with just three minutes left at the Vitality Stadium.

But Unal came to the Cherries' rescue three minutes later with only his second goal this season.

The 27-year-old's moment of magic extended Bournemouth's unbeaten run to four games as it climbed to sixth place.

Bournemouth has scored a league-high 10 goals in the final 15 minutes of games this season.

Inter Milan is hot on the heels of Serie A leader Atalanta after crushing Lazio 6-0 in Rome on Monday to demolish one of the division's form teams.

The results: Premier League: Bournemouth 1 (Unal 90) drew with West Ham 1 (Paqueta 87-pen).
Serie A: Lazio 0 lost to Inter 6 (Calhanoglu 41-pen, Dimarco 45, Barella 51, Dumfries 53, Carlos Augusto 77, Thuram 90).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Easy for Karnataka

Karnataka defeated Jammu & Kashmir by seven wickets in the BCCI men's under-23 State 'A' trophy at Bhilai (Chhattisgarh).

The scores: Jammu & Kashmir 209 in 44.2 overs (Arya Thakur 39, Yawer Hassan 39, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 46, Preet Singh 35, Mohsin Khan 3/21, Shikhar Shetty 4/46) lost to Karnataka 210/3 in 38.5 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 38, Harshil Dharmani 86, Aneeshwar Gautam 51).

Niranjan's unbeaten ton drives Rajajinagar Cricketers' victory

BENGALURU: Niranjan Ashok (114 n.o.) powered Rajajinagar Cricketers past Vijaya CC in the quarterfinal of the KSCA under-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores (quarterfinals): Vijaya CC 253/8 in 50 overs (Hruthik Kumar 27, Abhiroop Royal 29, Rayyan Khan 77, Panshul Sharma 25, Samarth Chougule 50 n.o., Viaan Joshi 29) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 254/3 in 48.4 overs (Prabhav Pydah 31, Debraj Nandi 37, Niranjan Ashok 114 n.o., Dhathvik 31).

Swastic Union (1) 200 in 47.4 overs (Samarth Suresh 76, Nitish Arya 54, Vivek Seervi 3/29, D. Lukesh 4/19) bt Swastic Union (2) 126 in 40.2 overs (Zak Anthony 49 n.o., Samrat Aditya 3/14, Nitish Arya 3/32).

Bangalore SC 157 in 42.4 overs (N.S. Khanishk 61, Vikram 28, S. Vidhat 27, Mayank Sharma 3/31) lost to Social Cricketers 159/3 in 34 overs (Athreya Bhat 32, Tanshh Krishna 59 n.o.).

Vultures CC 177/6 in 50 overs (Chetan Vishnu 59, Saurjyesh Das 32) lost to Friends Union (1) 178/4 in 41.1 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 102 n.o.).

South United FC-FC Bengaluru United match drawn

South United FC was held to a goalless draw by FC Bengaluru United in the BDFA Super Division football league here on Tuesday.

The results: Super Division: Sporting Club Bengaluru 0 drew with ASC & Centre FC 0;South United FC 0 drew with FC Bengaluru United 0.
'B' division: ADE FC 1 (John Joseph 57) drew with Postal Dept FC 1 (D. Dhanush 37); Bangalore Warriors 1 (Vishnuvardhan 32) drew with Infinite Belagavi FC 1 (Shamil 14).

Karnamoorthy 'tricks as Ideal SA 'A' wins big

Karnamoorthy slammed a hat-trick to propel Ideal SA 'A' to a 6-1 win over Aristocrat HC in the KSHA 'B' division hockey league.

The results: Ideal SA 'A' 6 (Karnamoorthy 6, 32, 42, Abhishek 10, Veera Kannan 17, Ragul 25) bt Aristocrat HC 1 (Vamshi Nayak 30).

Top-flight badminton returns to Bengaluru; leading shuttlers set for the Nationals

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Smash time: The stage is set for the Senior National badminton championship in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Nearly a dozen years after last making a pit stop in the Garden City, the Senior National Badminton Championship will return to Bengaluru for its latest edition starting Wednesday.

The cream of India's second-rung talent will be in action in the seven-day long event which will see the team championship matches on the first two days followed by the individual competitions at the KBA courts.

In 2017, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) had made a spirited effort to revive the premier domestic tourney in the country.

Top players participated and the prize money went up, and for two consecutive seasons P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal clashed in the final.

The tournament has slipped back into being a training ground for the young and up-and-coming - the end of the season slot doesn't probably help in attracting stars - but it may not be a bad thing, for badminton is now one of the country's premier sports and the matches present a chance to see the building of a talent pipeline.

The likes of defending champion Anmol Kharb, Isharani Baruah and Tanvi Sharma - all three of whom helped India qualify for the Uber Cup quarterfinals earlier in the year - are set to play while the men's roster has last year's winner Chirag Sen, Ayush Shetty, Mithun Manjunath and Sai Prateek among notable names. Interestingly, Ayush, Mithun and Sai Prateek are from Karnataka but will turn out for the Railways. The fancied Karnataka women's doubles pairing of Shikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat will be keenly watched.

As many as 450 players have registered and they will be vying for a total prize money that amounts to a handsome ₹50 lakh. Of this, ₹10 lakh is for the team competition where there are seven entries each among men and women. The singles winners will pocket as much as ₹3.25 lakh each while the doubles winners will take home ₹3.45 lakh.

The teams: Men: Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Railways and RBI.
Women: Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Assam, Railways and RBI.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN No: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP portal only)

Bids in two covers are invited through "e" Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from reputed bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar works.

KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT - STAGE-II

1) No.: KPCL/2024-25/DA/WORK_INDENT2169/CALL-2: Construction of right river training wall of Kadra Dam (Extension). Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 138.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2,07,000/-** Last Date & Time for online submission of tenders: **27.12.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs.** Contract period: **6 Months (Excluding monsoon).** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (Civil) Kadra,** KPCL, Kadra- 581 396, Karwar Tq. Uttara Kannada Dist.

KADRA AND KODASALLI POWER HOUSE

2)No.:KPCL/2024-25/GH/WORK_INDENT1880/CALL-3: Overhauling / Servicing and repair of 2 numbers of 125T / 30T / 10T EOT cranes of Kodasalli Power House. EMD : **Rs. 57,700/-** Period of Completion : **12 Weeks from the date of handing over.** Last Date & Time for online submission of tenders: **28.12.2024 up to 16:30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (O&M) Kodasalli,** Kadra-581 396, Karwar Tq. Uttara Kannada Dist. Phone : 08382-256344, e-mail:kslyee3kpcl@gmail.com/eeomkodasallikpcl@karnataka.gov.in

MUNIRABAD DAM POWER HOUSE PROJECT

3)No.:KPCL/2024-25/GH/WORK_INDENT2334, Dtd: 12.12.2024: Replacement of penstock gate hoist damaged wire rope, rubber seals, sand blasting and painting of Unit-4 penstock gates. Last Date & Time for online submission of tenders: **27.12.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs.**

4)No.:KPCL/2024-25/GH/WORK_INDENT2365, Dtd: 12.12.2024: Renovation & Modernization works of intake service gates at Munirabad Dam Power House. Last Date & Time for online submission of tenders:**13.01.2025 up to 17:30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (O&M) MDPH,** Munirabad- 583 233, Koppal Dist. Mobile : 9448290581, e-mail : eembdphkpcl@yahoo.com.

NAGJHARI DAM POWER HOUSE

5)No.:KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2147/CALL-2, Dtd: 09.12.2024: Protection works of ODY River Retaining wall along with Toe protection at NPH. Approx Value of Work : **Rs. 211.83 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** EMD : **Rs. 3,18,000/-** Contract period: **6 Months (Excluding monsoon).** Last Date & Time for online submission of tenders: **24.12.2024 up to 16:30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer(Civil) Dam & Power House,** KPCL, Ambikanagar-581 363, Dandeli Tq, Uttara Kannada Dist. Mobile : 9449599109.

SHIVA HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

6)No.:KPCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT2283/CALL-2: Improvements / repairs to non-residential buildings at Shivasamudram. Amount put o tender : **Rs. 42.05 Lakhs** EMD: **Rs. 84,119/-** Contract period: **4 Months (Excluding monsoon).** Last Date & Time for online submission of tenders: **24.12.2024 up to 17:29 Hrs.** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer(C),** Shivasamudram Colony, Malavalli Tq, Mandya Dist.

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Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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CITY MUNCIPAL COUNCIL CHANNAPATNA

RAMANAGAR DISTRICT
Janahitha (Helpline) : 080-23108108
www.channapatnacity.mrc.gov.in E-mail : itstaff_ulb_channapatna@yahoo.co.in

No.CMC/CPT/ENG/TENDER/CR/16/2024-25 Dated : 16-12-2024

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION :-

City Municipal Council, Channapatna invites tenders from PWD registered eligible Contractors enrolled in KPPP in **two** cover system in accordance with KW-3 standard bid document through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For the indents **1) 26930/CALL-4 2) 26948/CALL-4 3) 26950/CALL-4 4) 26868/CALL-4 5) 26869/CALL-4** at CHANNAPATNA CMC limits, last date for submission of tender is on 24-12-2024 upto 5:30 PM EMD Details can be referred at KPP Portal. Date of opening Technical bid is Scheduled on 26-12-2024 at 10.30 A.M. For further details interested bidders may contact technical section during office hours at Channapatna CMC Office. The detailed tender notification can be viewed in website **www.channapatnacity.mrc.gov.in**

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner,
CMC, Channapatna

KARNATAKA GAS POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(YELAHANKA COMBINED CYCLE POWER PLANT)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)

Item wise tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from the bidders for the following works for ZLD Plant at Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Plant: **(1)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1383, Dated: 10.12.2024. "Procurement of Dolomite Lime". **(2)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1384, Dated: 10.12.2024. "Procurement of Ferric Chloride". **(3)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1385, Dated: 10.12.2024. "Procurement of Hydrochloric Acid, Sulphuric Acid and Caustic Soda Lye". **(4)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1386, Dated: 10.12.2024. "Procurement of Liquid Sodium Hypochlorite". **(5)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1387, Dated: 10.12.2024. "Procurement of Polyelectrolytes". **(6)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1388, Dated: 10.12.2024. "Procurement of Commercial Grade Sodium Carbonate - SODA ASH". Calendar of bid activities and other details can be accessed from e-Portal. Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (MSP)Y**, YCCPP/RTPS, Doddaballapur Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 119. Mob: 90350 01693.

Government of Karnataka

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.

Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Gadag

Phone No: 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268 E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com

No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1 : Different Head : 2024-25/ 3609 Dated: 16-12-2024

Short term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 13 work of total amount of **Rs -184.00 Lakh** (Min estimate amount: **Rs. 06.00 Lakhs** to Max Estimate Amount: **Rs. 38.00 Lakhs**) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1 and 2 through http:// www. kppp. Karnataka. gov.in/

Work Indent No: 16879, 16880-ST,16866, 17016, 16802-SC, 16799, 16837, 16966, 16865-SC, 16982, 16897, 16838-SC, and 16764

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **23-12-2024**, (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **26-12-2024** (c) Opening of Financial Bid Date: **27-12-2024**

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D .Division, Gadag.

DIPR/Gadag/461/DeshpandePublicity/2024-25

INNOVATE KARNATAKA | K-tech

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NOTICE No: ITBTST/2024-25/SE0015/CALL-2

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT and Bt and S&T intends to **Empanel implementing partners to implement K-Tech Center of Excellence in Automotive Tech** in Karnataka. In this regard, KITS invites proposals from the qualified agencies in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP)

The interested agencies are required to download the electronic copy of the Request for Proposals and upload the proposal (in PDF format) on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in through the bidder's Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

Any notices / information related to this Request for Proposals in the future shall be available on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only.

The deadline for submission is on or before **01.01.2025 by 4.00 P.M.** Refer to the Request for Proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions

Sd/-
Managing Director

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
 # 59, 3rd Floor, BKG Sapphire, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru – 560020
Mob : 9880682933 E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/3813/2024-25

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/09/2023-24/1368 Date: 17.12.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri Vinay.R S/o M.Rajashekaraiah and others have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:68/5 extent of 01Acre-16½Guntas, Sy.No:68/6 extent of 01Acre-16½Guntas, Sy.No:94 extent of 0Acre-39½Guntas, Sy.No:113 extent of 01Acre-20Guntas and Sy.No:114 extent of 01Acre-07Guntas totally measuring 06Acre-19½Guntas of Chinnakurchi Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore SouthTaluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the layout in the above said lands the poor and middle Class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for Local labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4) By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/3818/2024-25

Government of Karnataka

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BASAVANA BAGEWADI - 586 203

No: TMCBGD/T.N/2024-25/422 Date: 16.12.2024

E-PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATIONS

Town Municipal Council Basavana Bagewadi Invites tenders from eligible tenders registered in KPWD for the 1 works under Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited Grants 2024-25 Fund. Tenders are called in standard tender Document through E-Procument Portal For Further details visit online web site http://kppp.karnataka. gov.in.

Note: Tender Corrigendum and Addendum will be issued in http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Portal

1) DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33461

Last Date for Tender Queries / Clarification 06.01.2025 Time:4.00 PM

Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders 07.01.2025 Time.5:30 PM

Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid 09.01.2025 Time.11:30 AM

Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid 10.01.2025 Time11:45 AM

Sd/-
Chief Officer
TMC Basavana Bagewadi

Sd/-
Administrative
TMC Basavana Bagewadi

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/527/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, (QA&QC-East),
Room No-101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002
No: EE(QA&QC)/East/TEND/58/2024-25(Call-2) Date:17.12.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) (Call-2)

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Quality Assurance/Quality Control division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer QA/QC, East, BBMP.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements of Drains and Asphalting work at Paramajyothi Road and Chinnaiah Colony, Prominade Road, Punjab National Bank road and Surrounding area in Ward No-78 Pulikeshinagara. **Project Cost: ₹.200.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.5,000/-**
2.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements of Drains and Roads in Bangaragiri Layout 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cross, Jhanda Galli, Tippu Galli & Surrounding area in Ward No-47 DJ Halli. **Project Cost: ₹.200.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.5,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal GOK from **19.12.2024.** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting on **23.12.2024** at **11:30** am. (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **30.12.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid is **31.12.2024** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
(QA&QC-East)

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Sometimes success can be worse than failure in sport

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Two of India's most talented players, neither of whom lived up to his full potential, are again in the news.

Opportunities lost and promises unfulfilled make up some of sport's – in fact, life's – saddest stories. Of the two, Vinod Kambli is 52 and Prithvi Shaw 25. A return to international cricket and redemption is not ruled out for the younger man, even if his Mumbai captain thinks that one can't babysit him anymore.

In a moving gesture from a former great, Greg Chappell wrote to Shaw the following lines of encouragement: "I remember watching you play for India's Under-19 team, where you showcased an extraordinary talent and a spark that made it clear you were among the most exciting young cricketers of your time. Those of us who recognize your potential are still keenly watching your journey, knowing that the best is yet to come."

Do we give up too easily on a player? What of those like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, derided at one time for their apparently wayward ways when fame and fortune first came their way, but now the darlings of the establishment and captains of India? What if someone hadn't made the effort to advice them, stick with them?

Competition is stiff in Indian cricket; every slot has a few performers of near-equal strength. Even those with god-given gifts (his captain's description of Shaw's talent) have to work hard, keep fit and avoid temptations.

Cricket captains, some fighting for their own places, cannot always be expected to play the role of psychologist or encourager-in-chief.

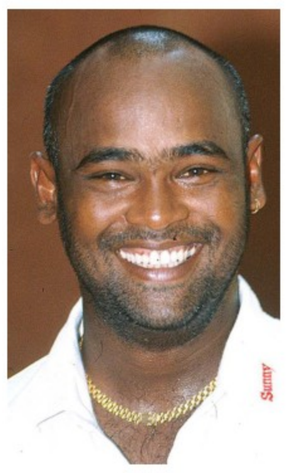
Those making the difficult transition from outstanding schoolboys or early successes to maturity often need professional help. They are vulnerable, easily tempted away from the straight and narrow. They are quickly labelled 'difficult' by adults who forget what it was like when they themselves were in their teens. A little understanding goes a long way.

Working it out

Many of our finest schoolboy cricketers who went on to carve successful international careers, from Yuvraj Singh to Rohit Sharma have had to work it out for themselves.

In a 2010 interview, Yuvraj told *ESPNCricinfo*: "I see a lot of youngsters like Kohli and Rohit who are very talented and flamboyant. I tell them not to make the same mistakes I made....but they don't listen. I don't blame them because a lot of times Sachin or Sourav or Kumble said something to me and I said 'What do they know?' ".

Watching Kohli and Sharma today, all dignity and poise, and fine examples of the gentlemanly cricketer, it might me difficult to believe that they were once the brash boys of the game, and close to throwing it all away.



Vinod Kambli. FILE PHOTO

Prithvi Shaw. FILE PHOTO

This is not to suggest that India, or any team, should produce cookie-cutter players each a clone of the next, but to emphasise the importance of the right advice at the right time to fully realise a player's potential.

Mumbai dropping Shaw for "fitness and disciplinary issues" suggests a distancing from a player who went unsold at the IPL auction recently.

This was someone who once made over 500 runs in an innings in a schools match and had a century on Test debut at 19.

Kambli's case is a failure as much of the individual as of the system. Good enough to score back-to-back double centuries in Tests, he had two other centuries besides, in his first seven Tests. A batter who once hit Shane Warne for 22 runs in an over, he was finished at 23.

The World Cup-winning Indian team of 1983 has promised help –- if he first goes into rehab, where he has been 14 times.

Mentoring issue

Too much too early without the emotional strength to handle it, says the rest of the world and moves on. Indian cricket does not have a system of mentoring young players – such things happened unplanned when there were players like Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid or Anil Kumble in the team. The seniors lead by example, if the team is fortunate.

Success can be a double-edged sword, as many promising players have discovered. It gives and it takes away with equal power.

We mourn the unfulfilled, but they deserve more, like professional help when they are most vulnerable.